CLAMP
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ゲートセブン
GATE 7
1
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DARK HORSE MANGA
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ゲート セブン
A BRAND-NEW MANGA series from CLAMP begins here! An innocent sightseeing trip to Kyoto opens up a magical realm to shy high schooler Chikahito Takamoto. Visiting a legendary shrine, Chikahito stumbles into the mystical world of Hana and her comrades—and his immunity to their powers leads them to believe that he's no ordinary awkward teenager! Protecting our world from violent supernatural creatures, Hana and her team welcome the confused Chikahito—who isn't quite sure that he wants to be caught in the middle of their war!
Allow yourself to be swept up in this new adventure from the best-selling and award-winning manga team known as CLAMP!
GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA / FANTASY
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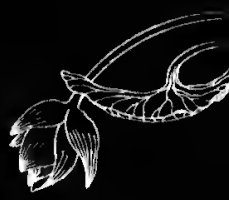

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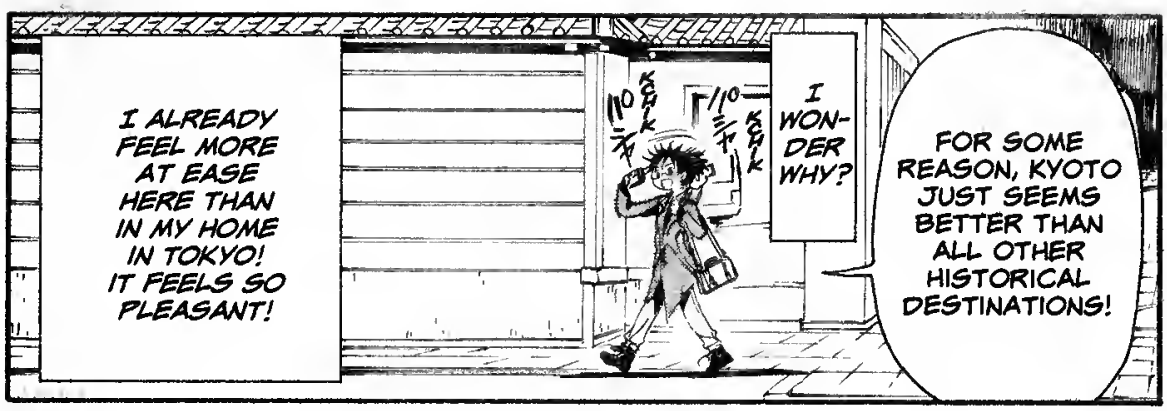
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO KYOTO-- EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID!
I'M FINALLY HERE!
KYOTO !!
AND ALTHOUGH I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE, I ALWAYS FELT AN IRRESISTIBLE PULL TOWARD IT.
THE REAL KYOTO!
IT'S SO MUCH BETTER IN PERSON THAN IN PICTURES OR VIDEOS!
SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THINGS LABELED "ANCIENT" ...!
HISTORY, ANCIENT ARTS, TEMPLES, AND SHRINES...
SURE, I SEE GLIMPSES OF PACHINKO PARLORS AND POP CULTURE...
...AND THAT ALL HAS ITS PLACE. BUT THIS IS WHAT I'M HERE FOR!
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I SHOULD BE IN LOVE WITH KYOTO.


I ALREADY FEEL MORE AT EASE HERE THAN IN MY HOME IN TOKYO! IT FEELS SO PLEASANT!
I WONDER WHY?
FOR SOME REASON, KYOTO JUST SEEMS BETTER THAN ALL OTHER HISTORICAL DESTINATIONS!

AWWW...
SIGH!
IF ONLY I COULD COME HERE FOR COLLEGE!
BUT MOTHER WOULD NEVER STAND FOR IT.

I'M HERE!
SHINING
I WANTED TO BE SURE I CAME TO THIS PLACE!
THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE!!

ANYWAY, I TALKED AND TALKED MOTHER'S EARS OFF ABOUT IT...
...AND HERE I AM-- FINALLY IN KYOTO ON A ONE-MAN TRIP.
AND I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS TO THE FULLEST!
FLUTTER

I KNEW THAT VISITING IN AUTUMN, WHEN THE LEAVES WERE CHANGING, WOULD BE THE BEST TIME!
OH, YEAH!
NOW THAT I'VE PAID MY RESPECTS TO THE GOD OF STUDIES...
TTMP
...I'LL HAVE TO GO BUY A CHARM.
HYUU

EHH?
EH?
GLANCE
GLANCE
EH?

IS THAT A GIRL?
OR... A BOY...?

...WHAT ARE THEY DOING UP IN THE TREES?
NO WAY ...
I HAVE TO WONDER...
I SET THE BORDERS AS THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN SET!
A NORMAL VISITOR HAS ENTERED.
THIS ISN'T DUE TO A MISTAKE ON MY PART!
CAN'T YOU EVEN SECURE THE FOUR CORNERS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

HEY-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THOSE TREES?!
HE'S BELLOW-ING.
HE SURE HAS A LOUD VOICE.
...THERE!
FWAAA

ASUKA
WHA--
WHAT ?!
FWSH
WHAAAAAAT?!

RHWSH!!
ELEMENT-- LIGHT.
EARTH REALM.
THEY'RE KUCHINAWA-- SERPENTS!

THEY AREN'T MIZUCHI-- DRAGONS?
THEY'RE IN A LOWER ORDER.
THEY'RE NOT SHOWING US MUCH RESPECT, ARE THEY?
HANA.
FORM YOUR WEAPON-- NOW!
YOU'RE SO IM-PATIENT!

HA...
NA...
?

Mujoho! Kamaitachi— Wind Whip Slash!

WHA--
THUMP
THUNK
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
GAPE
はく
GAPE
WAIT...
...YOU AREN'T COMING AFTER ME NOW, ARE YOU?!
WOOSH
SLAM

HIT
THOOM
GYAAAHH!

THIS ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE...
...THE KYOTO I WANTED...
...TO...
...SEE...

I CAN'T BREATHE...
IT'S LIKE...
...THERE'S SOMETHING HEAVY ON MY CHEST...
A CAT?
MROW!
A DOG?
WOOF!
BUT...
...I DON'T OWN EITHER ONE!
はう!
HUH?
PWISH

AHH! IT'S YOU!!
RUB RUB
AHH! HA HA HA!!
YOU SHOULDN'T SCARE HIM...
...HANA.
LUNCH IS READY! NABE YAKI-UDON!
THAT WAS TOO FAST!
MUSS MUSS
WELL, YOU'RE ALWAYS FAST WHEN IT COMES TO NOODLE DISHES, AREN'T YOU?
FIDGET
FIDGET
THAT KID REALLY IS LIKE A CAT.
A CAT WAITING TO BE FED!
NO, THAT ISN'T RIGHT.
MORE LIKE--

SHFF
I KNOW THEY'RE JUST NOODLES, BUT BE SURE TO CHEW PROPERLY ...
...HANA.
OKAY!
WELL, HANA DID DO A GREAT JOB TODAY.
WHAT? NOODLES AGAIN?
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!
IF YOU'RE AWAKE NOW, THEN COME OVER AND EAT WITH US...
...CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO-KUN.

ONE QUICK LOOK INSIDE YOUR BAG GAVE US THAT.
YEEEK
いいいい
GASP!
HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
THANKS...
FWIP
もぐ
OH...
OKAY...

YOU SAW THAT?!
WAIT!
...BUT YOU EVEN HAD YOUR SCHOOL ID INSIDE.
NOT ONLY WAS YOUR CELL PHONE IN THERE...
THAT'S AN INVASION OF MY PRIVACY!
WELL, SORRY.
SURE.
ALL THE INFO ON YOUR PHONE... EVERYTHING.
PAH!
PAH!
EITHER THAT... OR YOU WERE AN ASSAS-SIN.
WE FIGURED YOU WERE FROM ANOTHER HANA MACHI.
BUT YOU GOT THROUGH MY WARDS SO EASILY. WE HAD TO CHECK YOU OUT.

BWAAAH!
AN ASSASSIN ...?!
WAAAA!
OH, YEAH! WHAT THE HECK WAS ALL THAT ABOUT BACK THERE?!
IT GOT ALL PITCH BLACK!
AND THOSE STRETCHY THINGS THAT CAME OUT OF THE GROUND...?
AND THAT SWORD...? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
TUG
TUG

UDON NOO-DLES.
THEY'RE GETTING STRINGY!
EH?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND EAT, YOUR NOODLES WILL GET STRINGY!
STARE

EH?
BLUSH
AH!
STARE
EH?
MAKE SURE YOU EAT YOUR FILL!
...THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
YEAH.
LET'S DISCUSS THINGS AFTER WE'VE EATEN, CHIKAHITO-KUN.
PUU!
PUU!
PUU!

THIS IS DELICIOUS ...
NOD
NOD

YOU'RE SPEAKING IN THE KYOTO DIALECT!
WELL, WE ARE IN KYOTO.
DAZZLED
ほわわ

SLURP
ちる
SLURRRP
ちるる

IT WAS REALLY AMAZING ...
ほう...
AMEN...
CLATTER
ぽた
ぽた
CLATTER

UM...
HWSH

I HAVE A QUESTION I WANT YOU TO ANSWER.
...
YOUR NAME IS CHIKAHITO TAKA-MOTO.
YOU ARE A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT TSUJI PRIVATE SCHOOL IN TOKYO.
CLASS C.
YOUR SEAT AT SCHOOL IS A WINDOW SEAT, THIRD FROM THE FRONT.
YOUR BEST SUBJECT IS HISTORY. YOUR WORST IS ENGLISH.
YOU BELONG TO NO CLUBS, WORK A PART-TIME JOB IN THE KITCHEN OF A CAFÉ, AND PRESENTLY HAVE NO GIRLFRIEND. NOW...
YOU LIVE WITH YOUR MOTHER IN THE LAST UNIT ON THE TOP FLOOR OF A THREE-STORY APARTMENT COMPLEX.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...IS THAT ALL CORRECT?

I BET HE GOT THE KANJI FOR "HANA" WRONG.
HANA MACHI...?
I JUST USED THE INTERNET AND THE HANA MACHI GRAPEVINE.
EHH?
BUT...
OKAY, SO WHERE ARE WE?
GLUB GLUB GLUB
こぽぽ...
KAMI-SHI-CHIKEN.
あれ?
HUH?
SO IT IS A HANA MACHI.
YOU MEAN JUST EAST OF THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE, RIGHT?
OUR REAL LOCATION...

...IS THE URA-SHICHIKEN HANA MACHI.
EVEN THOUGH ONLY THE THREE OF US LIVE HERE RIGHT NOW.

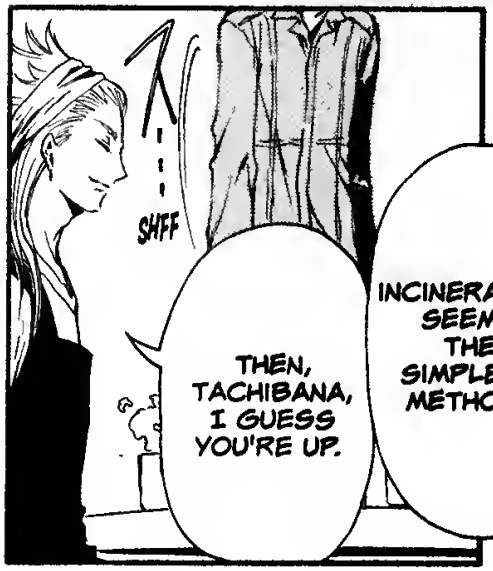
URA--?

SO WHAT'LL IT BE?
FRIED... OR SUCKED OUT?

WHAT DO YOU...
UM...

EH?
EH?

HEY.
SAKURA!
WHAT'S THE HARM? HE'LL FORGET IT SOON, ANYWAY.


SHFF
THEN, TACHIBANA, I GUESS YOU'RE UP.

INCINERATION SEEMS THE SIMPLEST METHOD.
THEREFORE, EXTRACTING HIS MEMORIES WOULD SERVE US NO USEFUL PURPOSE.
HE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE CONNECTED TO ANY OTHER HANA MACHI.
HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE FROM AN INOU FAMILY, AND HE EXHIBITS NO POWERS.

I-I'M NOT GETTING ANY OF THIS, BUT...
FLINCH
...THE THINGS YOU'RE SAYING SOUND REALLY SCARY!
I HOPE IT'S JUST ME!
SEIZE
NO, NOTHING SCARY! WE'RE JUST GOING TO ERASE A TINY PART OF YOUR BRAIN. THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY SCARY!
ALL MEMORIES FROM THE MOMENT HE STEPPED PAST OUR WARDS WITHIN TENMANGU...
WAIT!
STOP!
...UNTIL THIS MOMENT. THAT SHOULD DO IT, CORRECT?
WHOOO
THAT BURNS!!

GLANCE
GLANCE
NOW...
SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA?
YOU DO THE EXPLAIN-ING.
BLINK
CHZZT
LET'S SEE... OH, I KNOW!
YOU SEE, YOU FAINTED AT THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE, AND WE--
WHSCH
DON'T MAKE JOKES LIKE THAT--ABOUT ERASING MY MEMORY AND STUFF! PLEASE!
THAT REALLY MADE THE INSIDES OF MY HEAD HOT! WHAT WAS ALL THAT, ANYWAY?!
UWAGA!

I WANT AN EXPLANATION!!
THOSE STRETCHY THINGS AND THAT SWORD!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T BURN OUT HIS MEMORIES.
GRAB
WHAT?!

THIS IS WHERE HANA LIVES!
"HANA" ..?
HANA'S NAME.
IT'S HANA!

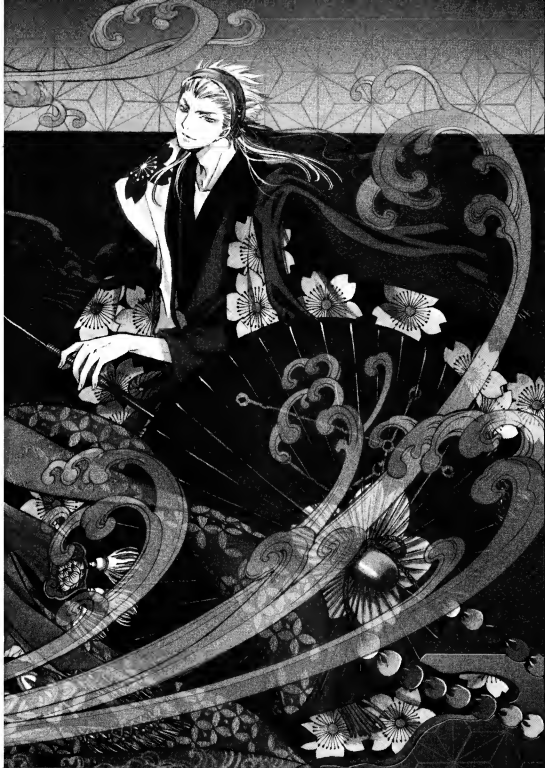
POHH

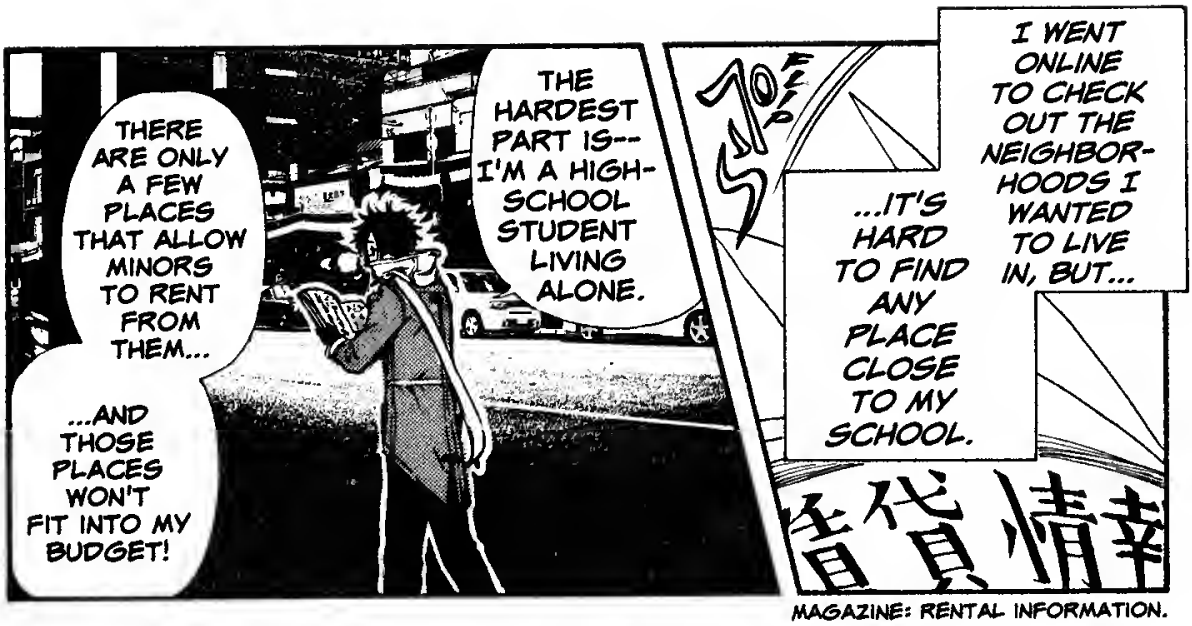
!!!
HANA !!
HANA ...
RIGHT HERE IS WHERE HANA...
...WILL WAIT.
I DIDN'T FIND OUT WHAT HANA'S WORDS OR ACTIONS MEANT...
BLAAAM!
...UNTIL SOME THREE MONTHS LATER...

...WHEN, FOR SOME REASON, THE WINDS OF FATE SENT ME AS A TRANSFER STUDENT TO A HIGH SCHOOL IN KYOTO...
...WHERE I WAS TO BE CAUGHT UP AGAIN IN THE ODD AFFAIRS OF THOSE PEOPLE.
BUT THE ONLY THING THAT'S CERTAIN...
...IS THAT THE KYOTO I WANTED TO SEE...
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

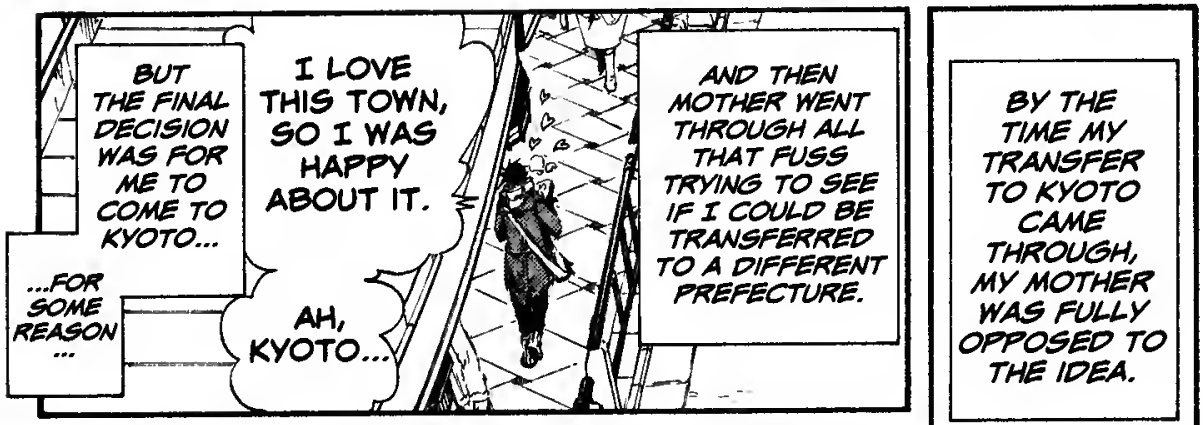
GATE 7
ゲート セブン

I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF KYOTO EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL...
...BUT I, CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO, HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN TOKYO...
BUT IN MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, I FINALLY MANAGED TO TALK MY MOTHER INTO LETTING ME VISIT KYOTO ON MY OWN...
...AND WHAT AWAITED ME THERE WAS AN EXPERIENCE I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS ODD.
...AND NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO VISIT KYOTO EVEN ONCE IN SCHOOL.
OUR TRIPS WERE TO HIROSHIMA AND SHINSHU.
LATER, AFTER RETURNING HOME, I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND MYSELF SUDDENLY TRANSFERRED TO A HIGH SCHOOL IN KYOTO!
AND ALL ALONE!
AT A WEIRD TIME, TOO, CLOSE TO THE END OF MY SECOND YEAR OF SCHOOL.
SO TODAY, I'M SEARCHING FOR AN APARTMENT FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
ALTHOUGH THIS IS MY SECOND TIME IN KYOTO.



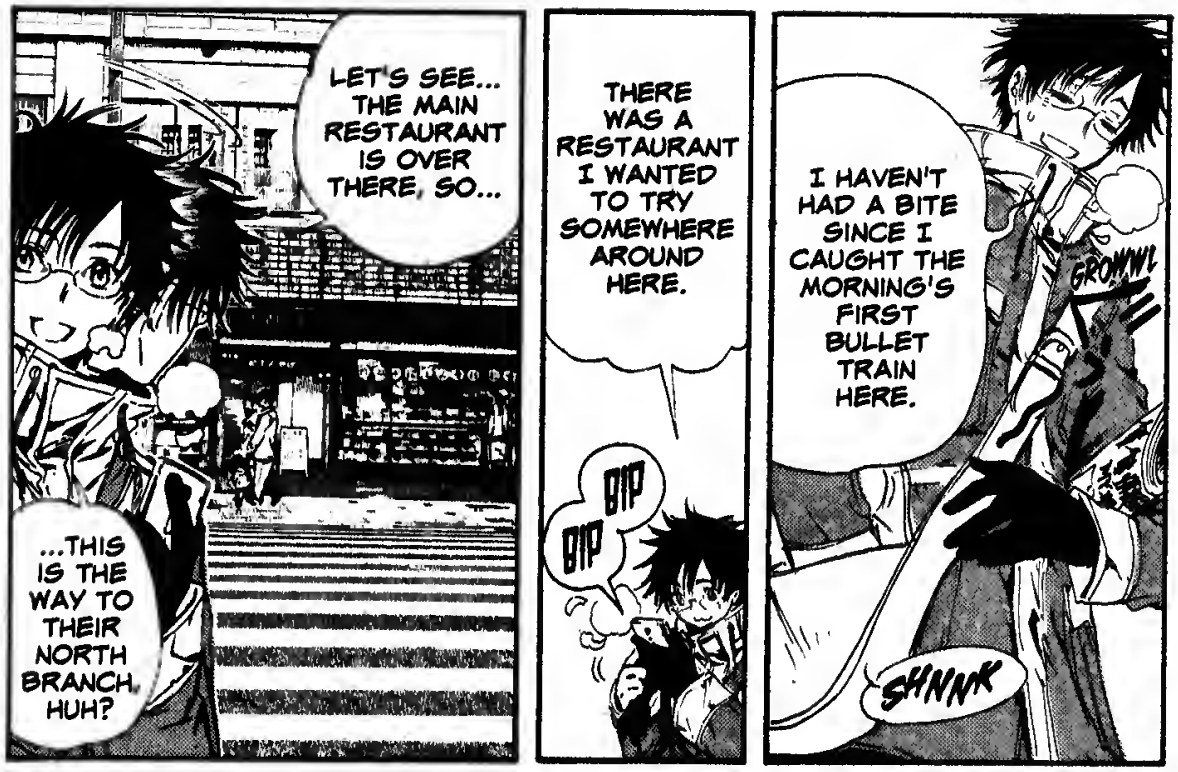

I WENT ONLINE TO CHECK OUT THE NEIGHBOR-HOODS I WANTED TO LIVE IN, BUT...
FLIP
...IT'S HARD TO FIND ANY PLACE CLOSE TO MY SCHOOL.
賃貸情報
THE HARDEST PART IS-- I'M A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT LIVING ALONE.
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PLACES THAT ALLOW MINORS TO RENT FROM THEM...
...AND THOSE PLACES WON'T FIT INTO MY BUDGET!

MAGAZINE: RENTAL INFORMATION.


AND THEN MOTHER WENT THROUGH ALL THAT FUSS TRYING TO SEE IF I COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A DIFFERENT PREFECTURE.
I LOVE THIS TOWN, SO I WAS HAPPY ABOUT IT.
AH, KYOTO...
BUT THE FINAL DECISION WAS FOR ME TO COME TO KYOTO...
...FOR SOME REASON ...

IN THE END, I NEVER DID FIND OUT JUST WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT.
AND THEN THERE WAS ...

SIGH
BUT I'LL NEVER MEET THEM AGAIN, WILL I?
BLUSH
おあああ
THAT SHORT ONE WAS REALLY CUTE, THOUGH...
ENOUGH OF THAT!
GRRRRR
ゆうう


LET'S SEE... THE MAIN RESTAURANT IS OVER THERE, SO...
...THIS IS THE WAY TO THEIR NORTH BRANCH, HUH?
THERE WAS A RESTAURANT I WANTED TO TRY SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
BIP BIP
I HAVEN'T HAD A BITE SINCE I CAUGHT THE MORNING'S FIRST BULLET TRAIN HERE.
GROWWL
SHNNK

AND THERE IT IS!

...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY NISHIN SOBA NOODLES.
WEL-COME!
CHIRP
CHIRP
SHMP
IT'LL BE A LITTLE LONELY EATING BY MYSELF, BUT...

FWISH
WAAAH!!
KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!
ひょこ
POP
EHHH?!
YOU'RE AS LOUD AS EVER.
ひょこ
POP

WHUH... WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
GRAB
GMM
MMPH!
WHP
TUG

FWUMP
FWUMP
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
EH?
FOUR NISHIN SOBA!
GLEAM
GLEAM
EH?
WHA--?!
THNK

ONE MORE NISHIN SOBA OVER HERE!
ふぉおおo
ONE MORE NISHIN SOBA OVER HERE!
OKAAAY!
BECAUSE IT ISN'T YOUR PORTION.
WHY IS MY PORTION ALREADY ORDERED?
HANA ALWAYS GOBBLES DOWN TWO.
NOW, REMEMBER-- DON'T WOLF IT DOWN.
IT'S STILL HOT.
NOD
NOD
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
OKAY, THEN...

すすー
SLURR
RRRRP
BUT ...
...WHY ISN'T WHAT HAPPENED TO US LAST TIME HAPPENING NOW??
あああ
AAAH
HHAAA
THIS IS GREAT!
ほわわ
GLOW
NOD
こくこく
NOD
C'MON, NOW! HANA ACTUALLY GAVE YOU A BOWL, AND YOU'RE LETTING IT GET STRINGY.
I-I'M SORRY!
FUU!! はぁ
FUU!! はぁ
YOU'RE IN A PUBLIC PLACE. QUIT YELLING.

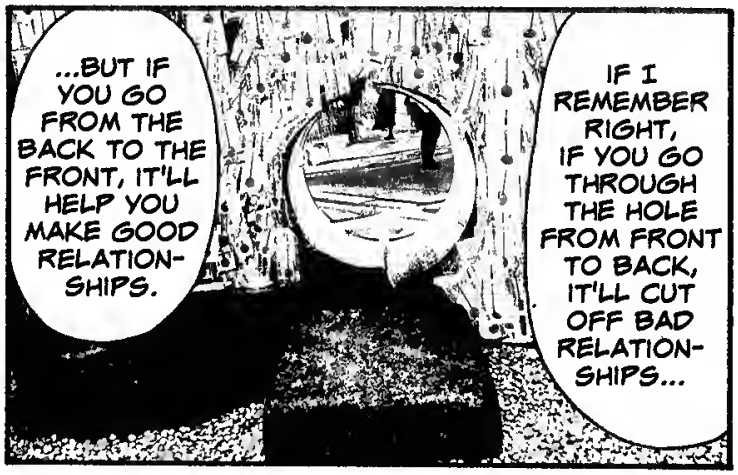
O-OKAY!
NOD NOD NOD
SLURP
ふ～ふ～
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!
COME AGAIN!
SIGN: NISHIN SOBA/MATSUBA/ NORTH BRANCH.
WAS THAT THE FIRST TIME YOU HAD NISHIN SOBA?
GLOW
AHH...
SO THAT'S WHAT NISHIN SOBA SHOULD TASTE LIKE!
AS IT WORKED OUT, I'VE BEEN TRANS-FERRED TO A SCHOOL HERE...
...AND RIGHT NOW, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF APARTMENT HUNTING.
"LIVE HERE" ...?
YES!
BUT NOW THAT I'M GOING TO LIVE HERE, I'LL DEFINITELY COME OFTEN!

...WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?
WELL...
...SHE GOT AN UN-EXPECTED OVERSEAS WORK ASSIGN-MENT.
SHE TRIED TO REFUSE, BUT...
HANA ...
...YOU DIDN'T...
IS THAT HOW IT WAS? OHH ...?
UM... HOW WHAT WAS?
...
GLANCE
おろ

WE'RE HERE!
SKFF
TPK
TPK
TPK
TPK
DRAG
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!

OVER HERE...
I SAW SOMETHING ON TELEVISION ABOUT THIS PLACE!
I HEAR IT'S FAMOUS FOR MATCHMAKING AND BREAKUPS.
THERE IT IS!!

ARE YOU GLAD...
...YOU CAME?
WELL, IT WAS A SHRINE I WANTED TO VISIT, SO...
...YEAH, SURE!
TP
TP


IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, IF YOU GO THROUGH THE HOLE FROM FRONT TO BACK, IT'LL CUT OFF BAD RELATION-SHIPS...
...BUT IF YOU GO FROM THE BACK TO THE FRONT, IT'LL HELP YOU MAKE GOOD RELATION-SHIPS.

YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?
Y--
YEAH...

OH! THE *EMA* HERE ARE ALWAYS PRETTY AMAZING.
ARE THEY SOMEHOW DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER *EMA*?

BUT JUST TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THEY'RE WISHING FOR.
POP
THEIR SHAPES ARE THE SAME.
"MY BOYFRIEND'S EX IS A LIVING CURSE. PLEASE MAKE HER VANISH."
"PLEASE LET ALL CONTACT BE CUT BETWEEN MYSELF AND MY MOOCHING COUSIN."
"PLEASE HAVE MY BOSS DEMOTED AND SENT AWAY SO THAT HE NEVER COMES NEAR ME AGAIN."
"PLEASE LET MY SON WAKE UP AND DUMP THAT LOVER OF HIS."
"PLEASE MAKE HIM LEAVE HIS WIFE AND MARRY ME."
HEY!
SOME OF THESE EVEN NAME NAMES!
AT LEAST THEY'RE FRANK ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM A SHRINE THAT'S DEDICATED TO HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE?

THEY TEND TO BUILD UP IN PLACES LIKE THIS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY PEOPLE LIKE US GET CALLED IN.
ERR...
"THEY"...
Y--
YOU DON'T MEAN...
...WHAT HAP-PENED LAST TIME I WAS HERE...?
ENVELOP US!

RIGHT.
ZZZZZZZ

WE'RE IN THAT WEIRD PLACE AGAIN!!
SO WHY IS HE IN HERE?!
I MADE A POINT TO EXCLUDE CHIKAHITO-KUN, TOO...
FWSH
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
AND MAYBE-- JUST WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
I KNEW IT.
EH?
WHAT DID YOU--
!
KEEEEE

KEEE
EEEE
KTCH
KTCH
FWOO
KAUSH
EEEE

WAAAAH!!
WHMMP
YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.
SO...
...HOW DO YOU SEE IT?
ELEMENT-- SHADOW.
WATER REALM.
SHISHI-- STONE LION LEONINE.

A LION— NOT A STONE DOG GUARDIAN— WHICH MEANS...
...IT'S WAY OUT OF CONTROL.
SINCE EACH PAPER STRIP REPRESENTS A PERSON'S WISH THAT'S CONGEALED ONTO IT...
...IT MAKES SENSE THAT IT WOULD BE A LION, DOESN'T IT?
WHEN TOO MANY WISH STRIPS ACCUMULATE, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN DOWN AND BURNED IN A RITUAL FIRE...
...BUT THESE WISHES MUST HAVE HUNG FOR TOO LONG.

MAYBE WITH THIS ONE, TOYOTOMI WILL DIG DEEP FOR OUR REWARD.
SKRE EEAAA
OH, WE'LL GET PAID...
...TO MATCH OUR SER-VICES!
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'RE SO DAMN CALM--
--WITH THAT WEIRD-ASS THING WRIGGLING IN FRONT OF US LIKE THAT!

WE'RE WORKING.
COULD YOU WAIT HERE QUIETLY FOR A MOMENT?
WRIGGLE, WRIGGLE!
NOW...
...ITS ELEMENT IS SHADOW, WHICH MEANS THAT THE WEAPON THIS TIME SHOULD BE BORN OUT OF...
AH!

PEOPLE... AND THE THINGS THAT AREN'T PEOPLE...
...FALL INTO LIGHT OR SHADOW. ONE OR THE OTHER.

LAST TIME, DIDN'T YOU--
HMP
YEAH, IT WAS ME.
THAT'S BECAUSE LAST TIME THE ELEMENT WAS LIGHT.

LIGHT??
WRIG-GLE, WRIG-GLE!

SO TO TAKE THEM DOWN...
...YOU NEED THE WEAPON THAT WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE PARTICULAR ENEMY YOU'RE FACING.

I'M SHADOW.
TACHI-BANA IS LIGHT.
HANA!

DOOO
VWATTOW
WATCH OUT!

HYUUU
WOOSH
HYUUM
FADE
HYUU
CHIKAHITO-KUN, YOU SHOULD WATCH OUT.
BUT HANA IS--
SUPPOSE YOU WENT. WHAT COULD YOU DO?
BUUH ...
BUT--

DO YOU THINK HANA COULD GET BEATEN...
...BY SOMETHING ON THAT SCALE?
FWOOSH
Myoho!
Kasha-- Fire Wheels!
WWNN

HYUUU
HYUUN

FWOOOM

TMP
You will live with Hana's group!
EH?
I KNEW IT! THAT ONE TIME...
EH?
YOU PUT HIM UNDER A SPELL ...?
YOU USED MYOHO.
YEP!
MYOHO.

BLUSH
Modoridori--homing bird!
Myoho!
YOUR MOUTH.
HANA SUCKED IN A LITTLE, RIGHT?
...THAT'S THE REASON I WOUND UP LIVING IN KYOTO?!
YOU MEAN ...
IT'S A SPELL THAT FORCES THE ONE IT'S CAST ON TO RETURN TO THE CASTER.
N-NO, NOT AT ALL!
ACTUALLY, I LOVE KYOTO!
DO YOU HATE IT?

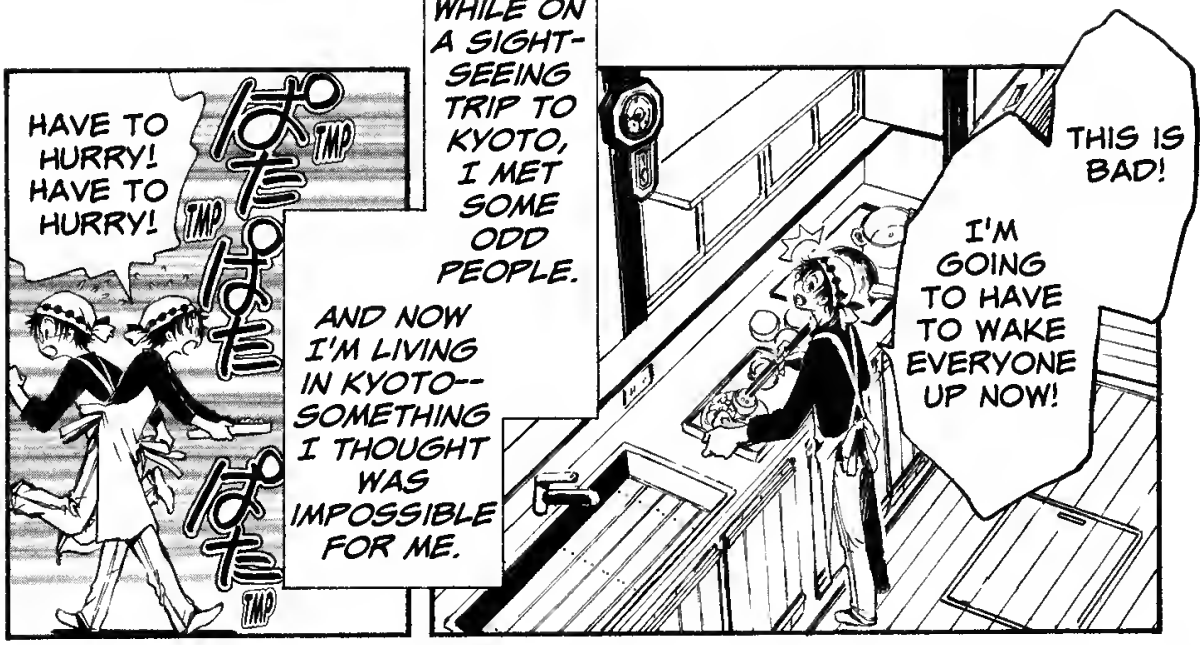
THEN...
...YOU LIVE WITH HANA!
SHAKE
AAH!
SHAKE
B-BUT--
CHIKAHITO-KUN, YOU CAN COOK, RIGHT?
THEN YOU'LL BE A BIG HELP TO ME.
...IF THAT'S WHAT HANA WANTS...
AT THAT TIME...
...I FELT VERY STRONG-LY...

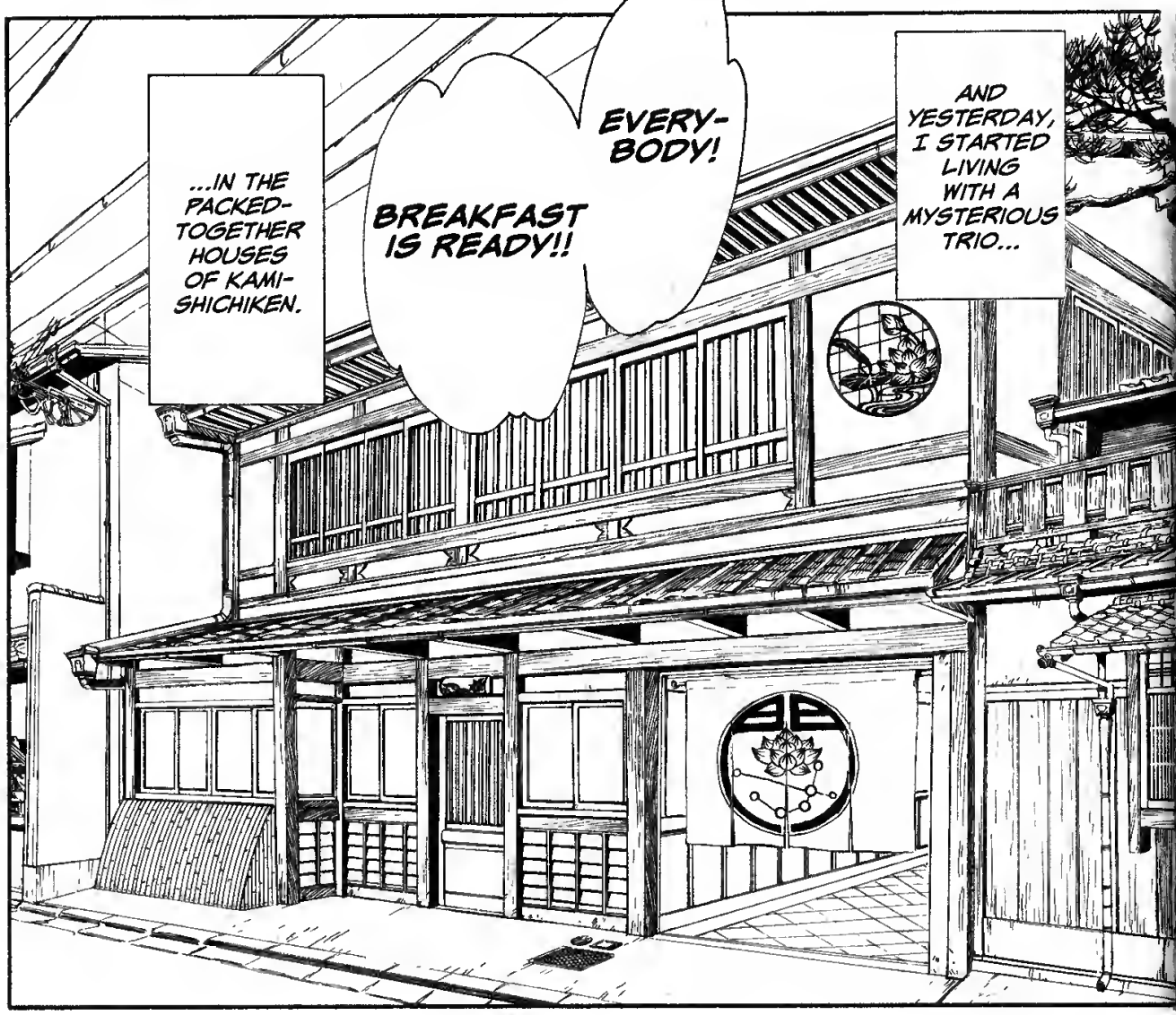
WHP
THEN, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME-- I ACCEPT.
...THAT I WANTED TO BE WITH HANA.

REINTRO-
DUCING
OUR-
SELVES
...
I'M
SAKURA...
...THIS ONE'S
TACHIBANA...
...AND...

HUH?
WRIGGLE, WRIGGLE!
AM I REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?!
YOU LIKE DOING THAT, HUH, HANA?
WRIGGLE, WRIGGLE!
HMMPH!
SHFF
SHFF
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT THE TIME, BUT...
...I ALSO HAD A SUDDEN FEAR THAT I HAD ACCEPTED FAR TOO QUICKLY. BUT THAT'S HOW IT ALL STARTED.

CHAPTER TWO: HANA AND THE URA-SHICHIKEN


WHILE ON A SIGHT-SEEING TRIP TO KYOTO, I MET SOME ODD PEOPLE.
AND NOW I'M LIVING IN KYOTO-- SOMETHING I THOUGHT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.
HAVE TO HURRY! HAVE TO HURRY!
ぱたぱたぱた
TMP
THIS IS BAD!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WAKE EVERYONE UP NOW!


AND YESTERDAY, I STARTED LIVING WITH A MYSTERIOUS TRIO...
EVERY-BODY!
BREAKFAST IS READY!!
...IN THE PACKED-TOGETHER HOUSES OF KAMI-SHICHIKEN.

MORNING ...
...CHIKA-HITO-KUN.
レミト
POP
GOOD MORNING!
OHH! LOOKS PRETTY AND DELICIOUS!
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S ALL I COULD DO RIGHT NOW.
DON'T WORRY!
IT'S AMAZING TO BE EATING CAFÉ-QUALITY FOOD HERE AT HOME!
MUSS わしわし MUSS
YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THAT PART-TIME JOB DIDN'T GO TO WASTE, HUH?
WELL...
I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ENTICE THOSE OTHER TWO TO COME DOWN.
ARE YOU ALWAYS SUCH AN EARLY RISER, SAKURA-SAN?
AS SOON AS I CALLED, YOU WERE ALREADY DRESSED AND COMING DOWN THE STAIRS.

I WASN'T ASLEEP.
NO.
EH?
YOU HAD SOME-THING TO DO LATE LAST NIGHT?
I CAN'T SLEEP.
NOT WITHOUT SOMEBODY NEXT TO ME.
HUH?

AAAH!!
BLUSH
かぁぁ
HUH?
HUH?
考え中
BUSY FIGURING IT OUT.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE PARADING PARTNERS THROUGH HERE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
SLINNK
STARTLE
BWAH!!

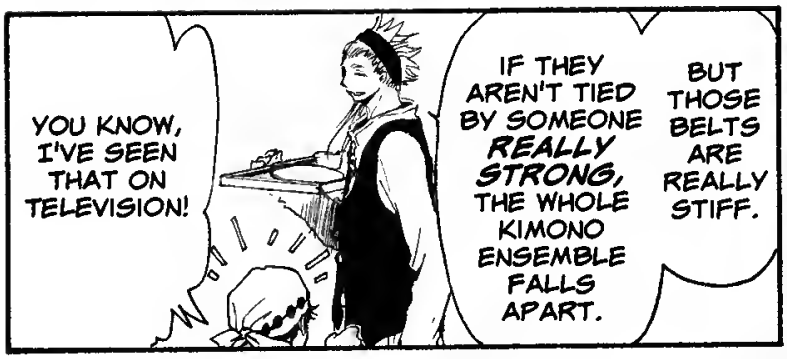
DOOOM
DOOOM
DOOOM
DOOOM
I SAID-- TEA!
TEA...
EH?
SCARY!!
TACHI-BANA ISN'T REALLY A "MORNING PERSON."
TWITCH
TWITCH
BUT HE GETS BETTER ONCE HE GETS SOME NOURISHMENT INTO HIM.
I'LL GO MAKE THE TEA, SO...
...WHY DON'T YOU GO AND TRY CALLING HANA.
POFF!
HA--
HANA-SAN WOULDN'T BE...
...LIKE TACHIBANA-SAN IS NOW... RIGHT?
GLOOOM

NO, NOT AT ALL!
WELL...
ONCE ASLEEP, HANA TENDS TO NEVER WAKE UP.
うわーん
NOOO!
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
YOU'VE GOT A MAGIC SPELL...
...THAT WORKS ON HANA.
TODAY'S MENU.
OH--
OKAY...
LET'S SEE... THERE'S HAM AND EGGS...
...SOME CONSOMMÉ SOUP AND POTATO SALAD...
...AND PASTA WITH MENTAIKO SAUCE...
THAT'S WHAT WORKS ON HANA!
TMP

WEEE
WHMP
SEE?
GLEEM
GLEEM

WHY A FROG?
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!
THANK YOU.
IT WAS DELICIOUS.
SHEF!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
YOU'RE WELCOME!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
ARE YOU HEADING OUT?
NOW...
...IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT READY.

TO MY WORK AS A MAN-SERVANT.
TMP ぽた
TMP ぽた
"MAN-SERVANT" ...?


YOU KNOW, I'VE SEEN THAT ON TELEVISION!
IF THEY AREN'T TIED BY SOMEONE *REALLY STRONG*, THE WHOLE KIMONO ENSEMBLE FALLS APART.
BUT THOSE BELTS ARE REALLY STIFF.

THE *MAIKO-CHAN* OF KAMI-SHICHIKEN HELP TIE THE OBI BELTS ONTO THE KIMONO OF THEIR "BIG SISTER" GEISHA-*SAN*.

AND THEY DON'T FEEL TOO TIGHT, EITHER.
THE OBI BELTS THAT SAKURA TIES ARE BEAUTIFUL.

HANA-SAN! YOU'VE HAD HIM TIE AN OBI BELT FOR YOU?
YEP!
HMM?
I KNEW IT! SO HANA-SAN, YOU ARE A GIRL...

YOU'RE SAYING HANA'S A BOY?!
HMMM?
WHICH ONE IS IT?!

WHAM
SHUT UP!

LECTURE.

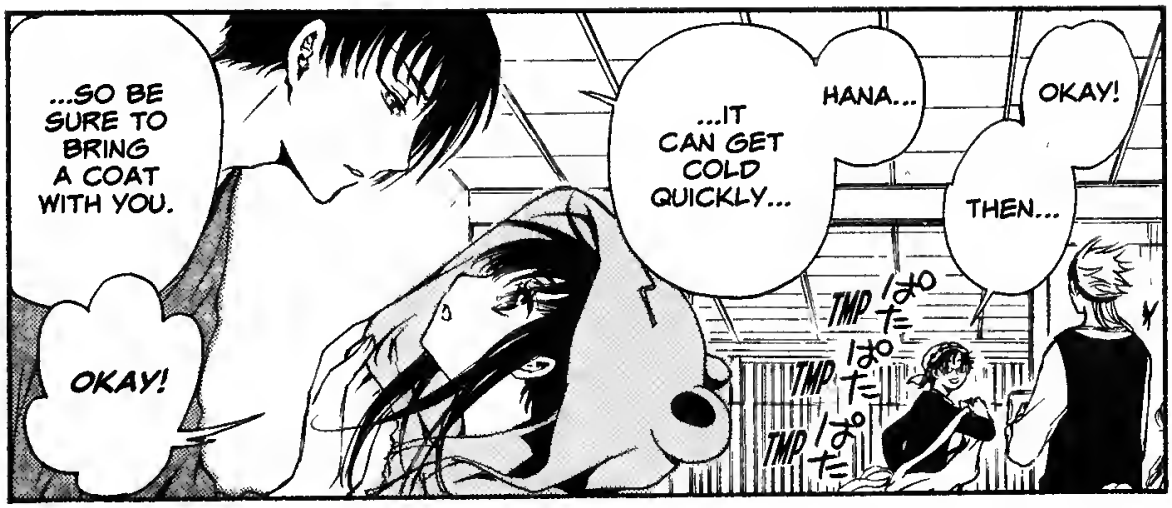
I'M HEADING OUT.
UM...
TACHIBANA-SAN, ARE YOU GOING WITH SAKURA-SAN?
TO HELP WITH KIMONO?

I KNEW YOU WERE IN A BAD MOOD, BUT...
I THINK HE MISUNDERSTOOD "LECTURE."
GRRR
YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE SOMEBODY A LECTURE?

EH?!
IS THAT RIGHT?!
イラ
ANNOYED
TACHIBANA IS A COLLEGE STUDENT.
SHAKE
ぶるぶるぶる
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
SINCE IT'S MID-MARCH, SCHOOL'S IN SPRING VACATION.
THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS IN APRIL, SO I WAS TOLD THAT I'LL START THEN.
CHIKAHITO, WHAT ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL?
TACHIBANA AND I HAVE TO HEAD OUT.

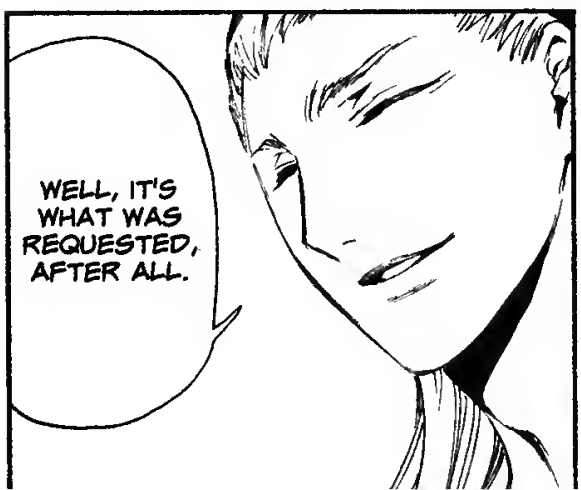
ぱた。ぱた
TMP
TMP
OKAY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL PLANS TODAY?
NO.
ぱたぱた
TMP
TMP
THEN COULD YOU GO OUT WITH HANA?
EH?
I'D LIKE SOMETHING DELIVERED.
ぱたぱた
TMP
AND HANA GOING ALONE ISN'T--
I'LL PUT IT THIS WAY... WHEN HANA SEES A NOODLE SHOP, IT'S A FULL-FRONTAL ATTACK.
SEE?
NOODLES ?!
BOING
I...
I THINK I DO SEE.
THEN CHIKAHITO WILL GO WITH HANA?

SHINE
IF YOU DON'T MIND.
HANA'S HAPPY!
GOOD FOR YOU, HANA!
SHARE?
...
...
GULP!
YEP!
SHAKE
SHAKE
I'LL DO THEM. TAKE CARE OF HANA, OKAY?
BUT THE DISHES...
WHIP
GOOD.
NOW BOTH OF YOU GET READY.

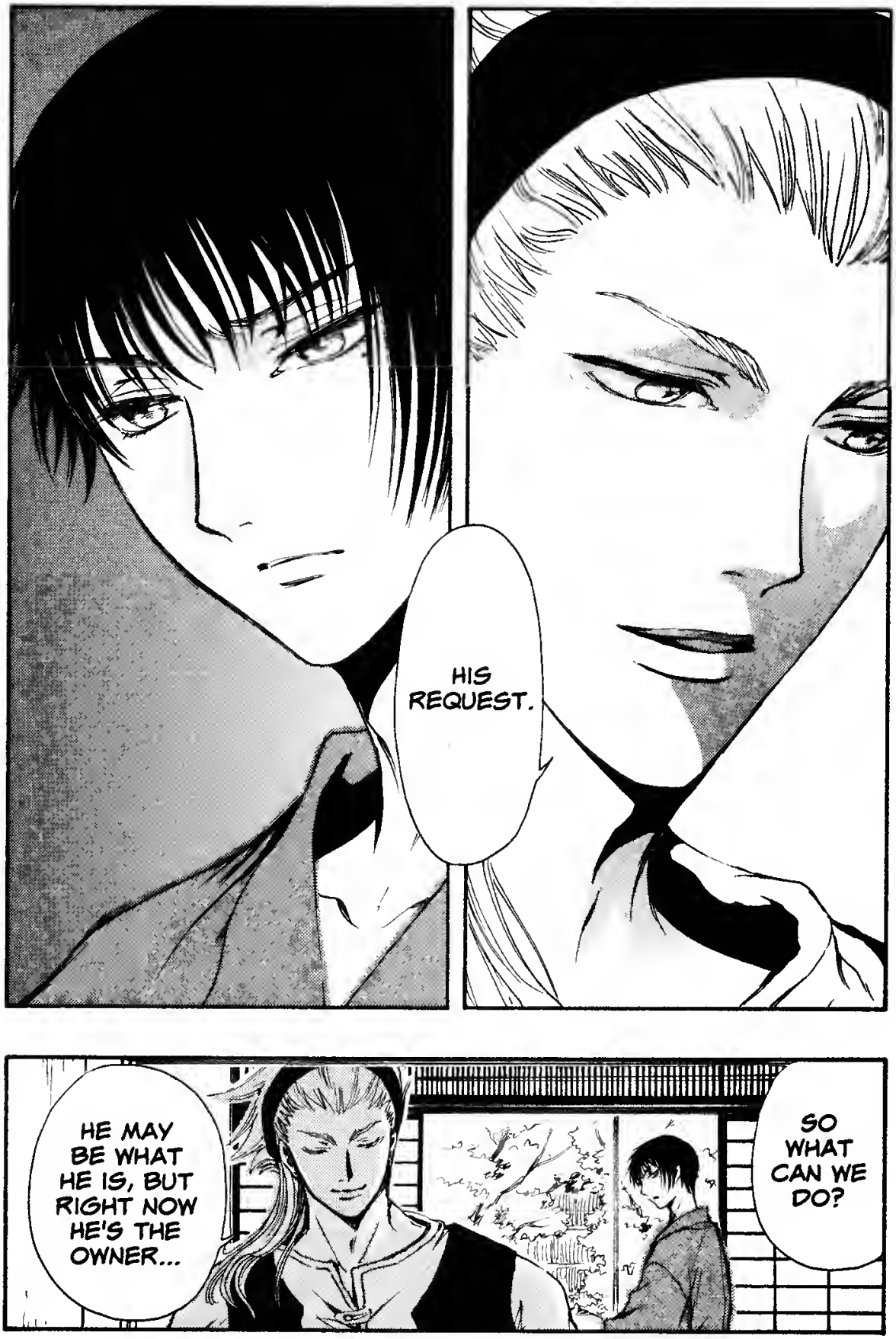

...SO BE SURE TO BRING A COAT WITH YOU.
OKAY!
...IT CAN GET COLD QUICKLY...
HANA...
THEN...
OKAY!
TMP ぱた
TMP ぱた
TMP ぱた

SO...
YOUR COLLEGE ISN'T IN SPRING-BREAK MODE IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH...?
IT SEEMS LIKE CHIKAHITO-KUN DIDN'T NOTICE THAT.
HE'S TOO NAIVE.

ぱた
TMP
TMP
ぱた


WELL, IT'S WHAT WAS REQUESTED, AFTER ALL.

TO THINK THAT THE TWO OF THEM ARE GOING OUT THERE ALONE...


HIS REQUEST.
HE MAY BE WHAT HE IS, BUT RIGHT NOW HE'S THE OWNER...
SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

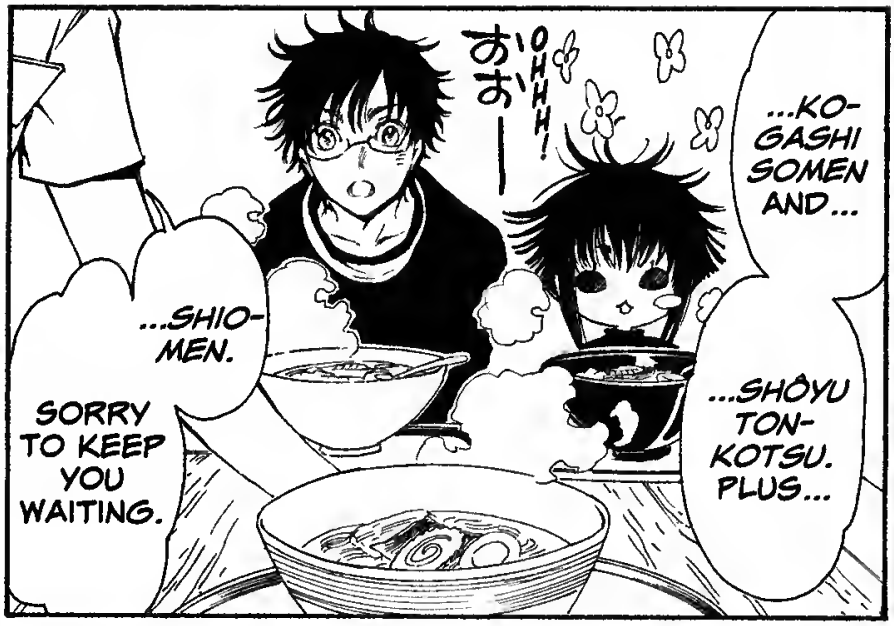
...OF THIS URA-SHI-CHIKEN.
SO THIS IS...
...THE NISHIKI MARKET?

WE CAN EAT THEM DURING DINNER!
I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE BUY SOME PICKLES OR SOMETHING TO BRING HOME?
IT ALL LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!
こっせん VANISHED
HUH?
HANA-SAN!
WAAAH!
あっ
五分

THIS ISN'T WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET THE PERSON!
TMP
TMP
LOOK... IT'S OVER THIS WAY...
GRAB
STARE
AH!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T THINK! I--!
NO. IT'S FINE.
BLUSH
WAPP
I SEE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG VERY WELL!

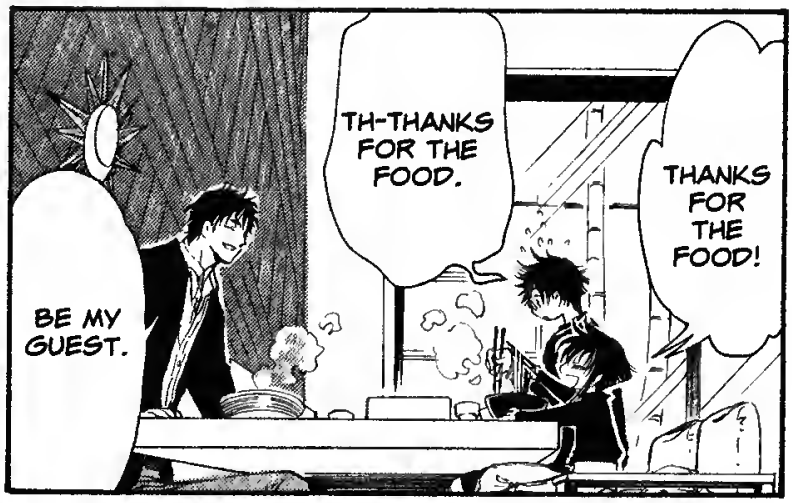
WHOOSH
WHO'S THAT?!
WH-
WH-
WH-
WH-
WHA--?!
AND WAIT...
WHAT'S THE SMILE FOR?!
HE'S A SHADY-LOOKING CHARACTER!

UH-UH-UH-UMM... WHO ARE YOU?!
HIDE-TSUGU!
POP
HUH?
RIGHT.
I'M CALLED "HIDE-TSUGU" ...
...CHIKA-HITO-CHAN.
SO...
...IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO BUY YOU TO EAT?
NOODLES!
ALWAYS THE SAME FOR YOU, HANA.
EH?
EH?


おおーー
OHHH!
...KO-GASHI SOMEN AND...
...SHÔYU TON-KOTSU. PLUS...
...SHIO-MEN.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

SLIP
THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING SHADY ABOUT HIM!

NOD
NOD
WE'LL START OFF WITH THE KO-GASHI SOMEN, HUH?
AND IF ALL THIS FOOD DOESN'T DO THE TRICK, WE CAN ALWAYS ORDER MORE.


TH-THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
BE MY GUEST.

THIS IS AN IZAKAYA, SO THEY ALSO SERVE OTHER GOOD FOOD LIKE NABE.
OF COURSE, HANA IS ALL ABOUT THE NOODLES, THOUGH.
IS IT GOOD ...
...HANA ?
NOD NOD NOD
BUT...
...HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHI-KAHITO-KUN?
IT'S DELI-CIOUS.
WELL, YOU'RE A NEW TENANT IN THE URA-SHICHIKEN.

UH...
HIDE-TSUGU-SAN...
UM...
I'M SORRY-- I NEVER SAID MY PROPER GREET-INGS!
AND I'M GOING TO BE STAYING AT YOUR PLACE, TOO!
I'M THE PLACE'S OWNER.
THE CURRENT OWNER.
NO, NO, DON'T LET IT BUG YOU.
AFTER ALL, HANA FORCED YOU TO COME HERE, RIGHT?
EVEN USING *MYOHO* TO DO IT.

SO I WANTED TO MEET YOU...
...AND SEE FOR MYSELF WHY HANA LIKED YOU SO MUCH.

YEP!
I CALLED HIM.

CHIKAHITO IS JUST LIKE HANA.

TACHI-
BANA
SAID...
...THAT
HE HAS
NO INOU
ABILITIES,
AM I
RIGHT?
YEP.
HM?
EH?
BUT
WE'RE
ALIKE.

UM...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ...?

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT ...
...TO CHECK SOMETHING OUT. DO YOU MIND?

A-AGAIN ?!
RAMEN ...
GLOOM しょぼーん
HMM? うん?
I TRIED TO LEAVE HIM OUT...
...BUT CHIKAHITO-CHAN WAS INCLUDED IN IT ANYWAY.
?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

SO WE'RE ALIKE.
IN WHAT AREAS ...
...WOULD YOU SAY?

?
?
IN AREAS THAT ARE...
...NOT.

Where he's the same is...
...not"...

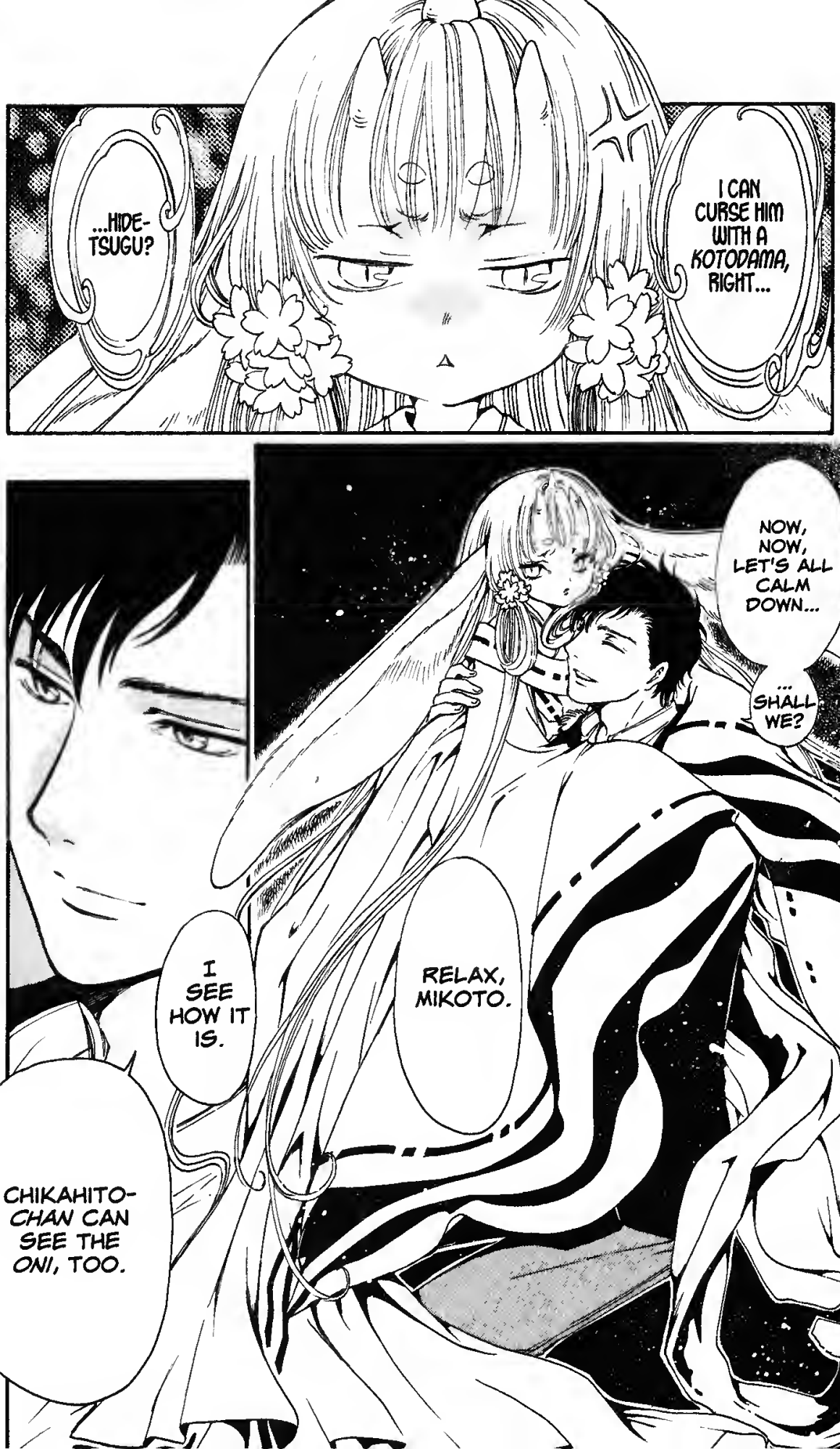
THAT MEANS ...
I'M NOT FOLLOW-ING ANY OF THIS!
COULD YOU BOTH JUST WAIT A SECOND?
BUT, WAIT-- YOU CAN DO THIS THING TOO, HIDETSUGU-SAN?
HM?
THIS...
THINGS LIKE MAKING THIS WEIRD PLACE.
WELL, I'M NOT ABLE...
...TO MAKE A PERFECT ENVELOP-MENT LIKE SAKURA CAN.
BUT JUST ABOUT ANYBODY IN A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH AN ONI CAN DO IT, TOO, PROBABLY.

NO, NO!
ドキドキ
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
ONI-- LIKE A DEMON?!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING, DO YOU...
...CHIKA-HITO-CHAN?
WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
うごご
うごご
IS...
IS ALL THIS COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR PEOPLE IN KYOTO?!
OF COURSE IT ISN'T COMMON KNOWLEDGE!

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER THREE: HIDETSUGU AND THE ONI

AAAAAH!
HORNS!
THOSE ARE HORNS!
GRRR!!
THEY'RE REALLY HORNS!


...HIDE-TSUGU?
I CAN CURSE HIM WITH A KOTODAMA, RIGHT...
NOW, NOW, LET'S ALL CALM DOWN...
...SHALL WE?
RELAX, MIKOTO.
I SEE HOW IT IS.
CHIKAHITO-CHAN CAN SEE THE ONI, TOO.

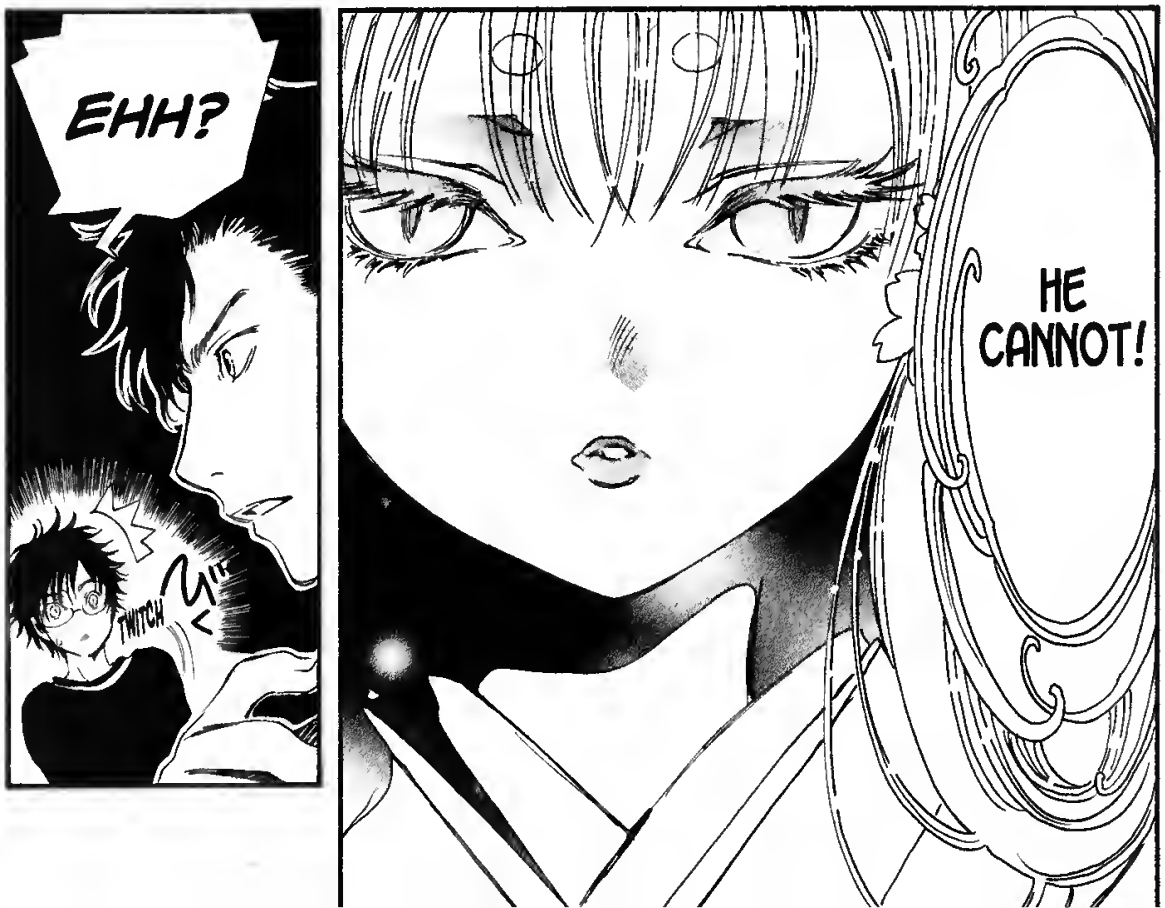
IT HAS BEEN EVER SO LONG...
...HANA!
MIKOTO !
HI, THERE!
DOING GOOD ?
HIDETSUGU HAS PROFFERED HIS OFFERINGS AS HE SHOULD...
...HOWEVER ...
...I DESIRE SOMETHING NEW.
WRIGGLE !
WRIGGLE !
WRIGGLE! WRIGGLE!
PRAY TELL... WHAT?
ANOTHER DOLL?

OH!
IT IS A GESTURE PERFECTLY SUITED TO USE WHEN DEMANDING ONE'S DESIRES!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
うごご うごご うごご
WRIGGLE! WRIGGLE!
YOU WILL DELIVER ME THE LATEST BLYTHE DOLL! THE ONE WITH THE LONG HAIR!
REALLY... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
COULD YOU JUST EXPLAIN--
BEFORE WE DO THAT...
FWSH

I CALL ON MY NOBLE, SUPERB BEING!
O ONI, BOUND WITH A BLOOD COMPACT!
I...
...MASTER OF THE TOYOTOMI CLAN, BESEECH AN ANSWER OF YOU!
IS THIS ONE BEFORE US FAVORED... OR UNFORTUNATE?
"NOT"...
...IS WHAT HE IS.

HE'S UNAFFILIATED WITH EITHER SIDE.
"NOT"--?

THAT WOULD MEAN THAT HE COULD DO THE SAME THINGS--
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S LIKE HANA...?


EHH?
TWITCH
HE CANNOT!

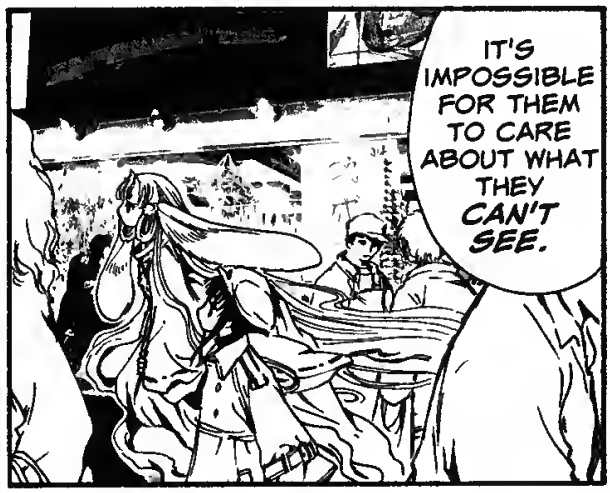
FOR THE VERY REASON HANA IS "NOT," HANA CAN *TAKE IN* ALL.
FOR THE VERY REASON THIS ONE IS "NOT," THIS ONE CAN *TAKE AWAY* ALL.
...I SEE.

HOW-EVER...
...CON-CERNING HIS STATUS AS "FAVORED" OR "UNFORTUNATE"... YOU SAY HE'S "NOT."
THAT'S CORRECT.
SO NOT EVEN YOU, MIKOTO, CAN PREDICT WHICH SIDE HE MIGHT FALL TOWARD.
TRUE?
EVEN SO, YOU WISH TO BE WITH HIM, HANA?
AT URA-SHICHIKEN?
YEAH.

THEN...
...I WILL EXPECT CHIKAHITO-CHAN TO COME TO MY SIDE NOW.
HANA?
FIRST-- THE RAMEN!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
NO.
TREMBLE
...HE'S FRIGHTEN-ING!
HE ISN'T JUST CREEPY ...
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
OHH!
AS I SUSPECTED, THIS GESTURE IS PERFECTLY SUITED FOR MAKING DEMANDS!

CHIKAHITO-CHAN, YOU RANK SECOND-- BELOW NOODLES.
はは HA HA HA!
うごうご WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
WELL...
...I GET THE FEELING I'LL BE BETTER OFF LETTING OTHER THINGS GET RANKED OVER ME FROM HERE ON OUT!
I WANTED MORE!
SO THREE BOWLS COULD NOT SATISFY YOU?
GLANCE
きょろ
きょろ
GLANCE
NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE THAT MIKOTO IS FLOATING AROUND.
BECAUSE THIS IS KYOTO?
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE "KYOTO" IN YOUR HEAD IS A VERY INTERESTING PLACE, CHIKAHITO-CHAN.

IT TAKES A VERY SPECIAL SET OF EYES.
ONLY THOSE WHO POSSESS *INOU* CAN SEE *ONI*.

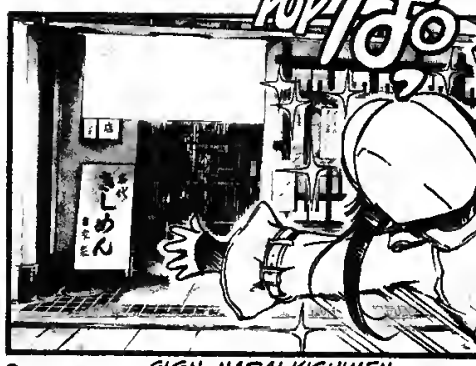

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CARE ABOUT WHAT THEY *CAN'T SEE*.

EH?

...BUT... I...
BUT...

AREN'T YOU THE ODD ONE, CHIKAHITO-*CHAN*?
YOU ARE "NOT," AND YET YOU CAN SEE *ONI*.

SIGN: SOBA-DOKORO.



SIGN: NADAI KISHIMEN NOODLES.

SIGN: UKIYA SOBA NOODLES.

"YOUR SIDE" ...?
YOU MEAN EVERY-THING ON THIS SIDE OF THE SHIN-KYOGOKU SHOPPING DISTRICT ?
YOU REALLY ARE A FUNNY PERSON, CHIKAHITO-CHAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO COME TO MY SIDE.
I AL-READY TOLD YOU.

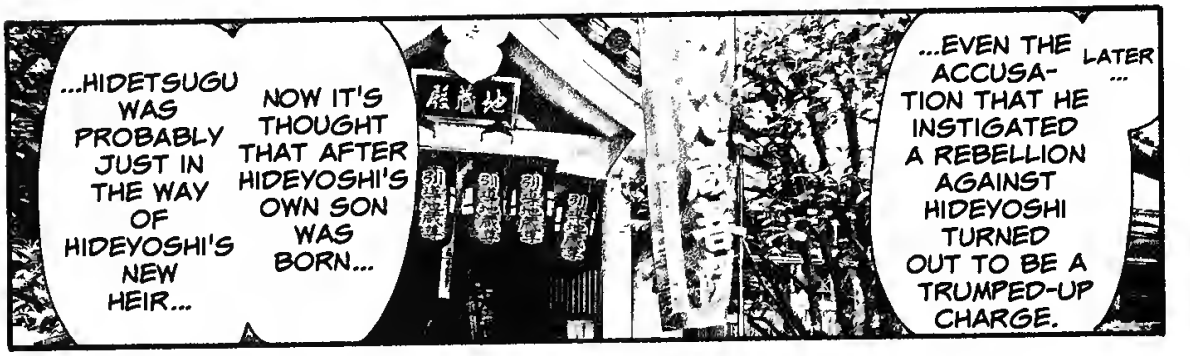
GRAVE MARKER: THE TOMB OF HIDETSUGU TOYOTOMI.
I WAS THINKING WE'D GO TO THE PLACE WHERE IT'S SIMPLEST TO EXPLAIN.
?
IT SAYS... HIDE-TSUGU ...?
RIGHT!
THIS IS MY GRAVE.

JUST HOLD ON A SECOND HERE!
HUH?
I KNOW THAT HIDETSUGU WAS SHOGUN HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI'S NEPHEW...
...AND DURING THE TIME THAT HIDEYOSHI HAD NO CHILDREN, HIDETSUGU WAS SINGLED OUT TO BE HIS HEIR...
SO... UM...THEY GAVE HIM THE TITLE OF CHANCEL-LOR...
...BUT LATER, HIDEYOSHI DID HAVE A SON...
YES. HIDEYORI.
AND AFTER THAT, HIDETSUGU GOT A REALLY BAD REPUTA-TION...
THEY CALLED HIM THE "BUTCHER CHANCELLOR" ...

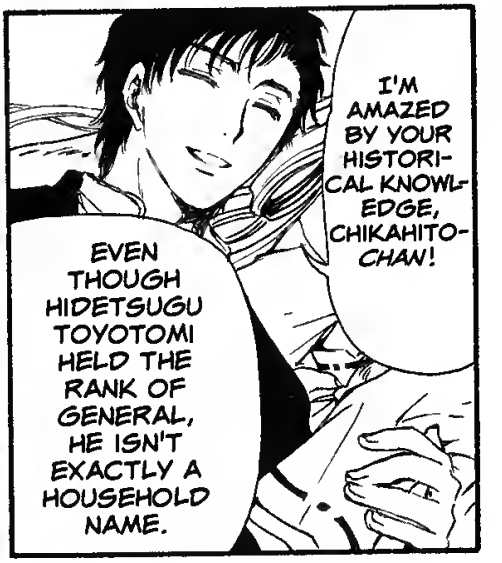
HOW DARE YOU INSULT HIDETSUGU!
FZZAINN
POHH
Myoho!
Fuuka!

PAAANG
BUT LET'S HEAR THE STORY TO THE END FIRST, SHALL WE?
FWPP
はず
THANK YOU, MIKOTO.

B-BUT THERE'S BEEN A WHOLE LOT WRITTEN, SOME SAYING HE DID THOSE EVIL THINGS...
...SOME SAYING IT WAS ALL MADE UP... OR THAT THE STORIES WERE SPREAD TO RUIN HIM...
TUG
TUG


...HIDETSUGU WAS PROBABLY JUST IN THE WAY OF HIDEYOSHI'S NEW HEIR...
NOW IT'S THOUGHT THAT AFTER HIDEYOSHI'S OWN SON WAS BORN...
LATER ...
...EVEN THE ACCUSATION THAT HE INSTIGATED A REBELLION AGAINST HIDEYOSHI TURNED OUT TO BE A TRUMPED-UP CHARGE.

I WAS INTERESTED, SO I READ A BOOK...
TMP TMP
とと


I'M AMAZED BY YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE, CHIKAHITO-CHAN!
EVEN THOUGH HIDETSUGU TOYOTOMI HELD THE RANK OF GENERAL, HE ISN'T EXACTLY A HOUSEHOLD NAME.

UNDER SUSPICION OF TREASON, HE WAS IMPELLED TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND BECOME A MONK ON MOUNT KOYA.
YES.
AND LATER, HE WAS FORCED TO COMMIT SEPPUKU. HIS HEAD WAS BROUGHT TO SANJÔ KAWARA.
AND THERE, HIS CHILDREN, WIFE, AND CONCUBINES--THIRTY-NINE PEOPLE, ALL TOLD--WERE LINED UP BEFORE HIS HEAD AND EXECUTED.
DID YOU KNOW THAT, AS WELL?
Y-YES...
DO YOU KNOW WHY HIDEYOSHI WENT TO THOSE LENGTHS?
SHAME
BECAUSE OF BLOOD.

"BLOOD" ...?
HIDEYOSHI WANTED, MORE THAN ANYTHING, SOMEONE WITH *HIS BLOOD* TO INHERIT WHAT HE HAD.
BUT FOR YEARS, HE COULDN'T PRODUCE AN HEIR.
EVEN THE FEW WHO SURVIVED CHILDBIRTH WOULD DIE SOON AFTER.
SO THAT GIVES EVEN MORE REASON FOR HIS STRONG DEVOTION TO HIDE-YORI.
EVEN TO THE POINT OF LOSING SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE.
SO IT WAS ALL ABOUT WHO WOULD BE THE SUCCESSOR TO HIS THRONE?
THAT WAS *PART* OF IT, BUT...
...HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE *ONI* WAS PASSED DOWN TO THE ONE WITH THE THICKEST BLOOD.
THAT WOULD BE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

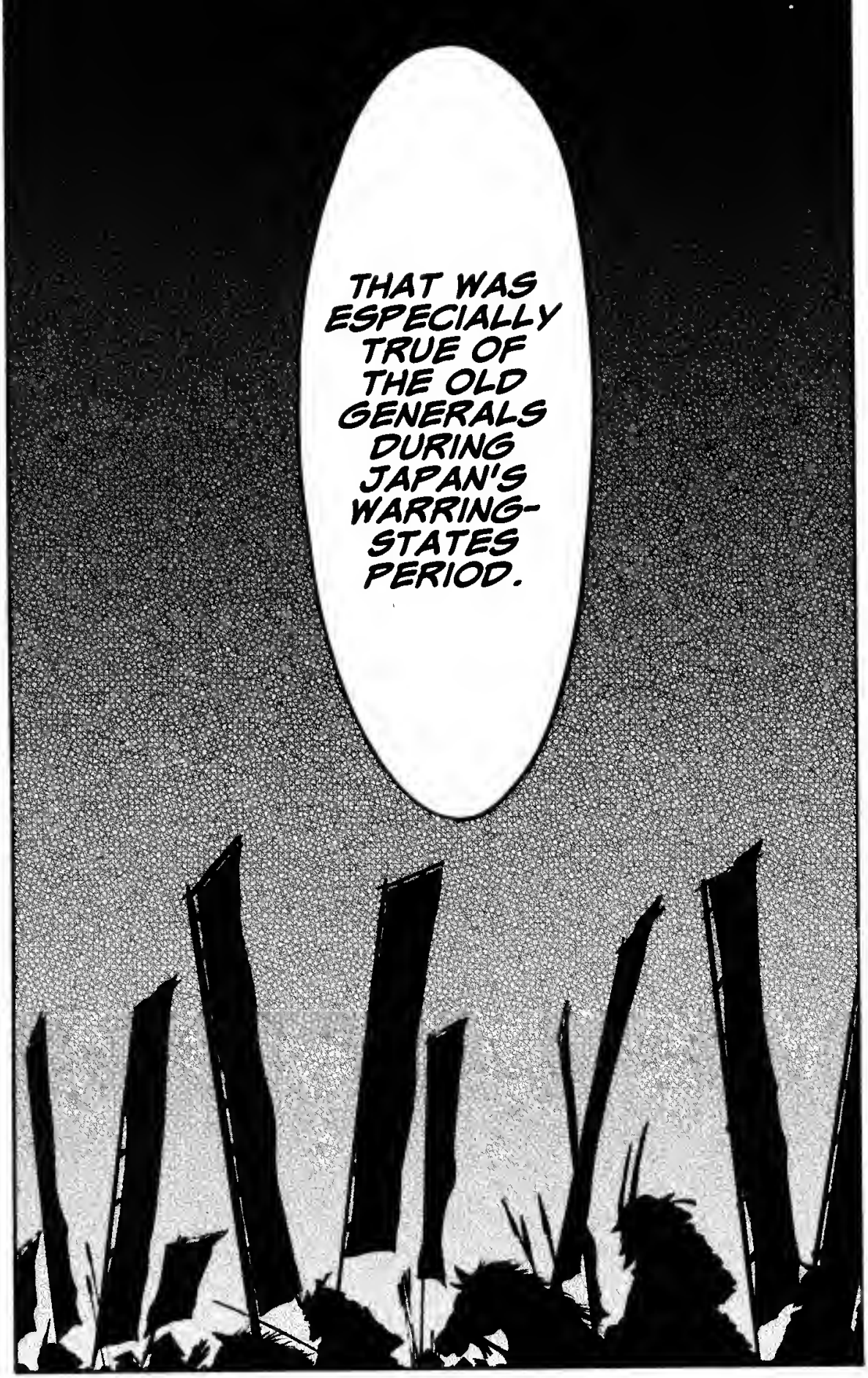
THE "ONI," AS THEY'RE CALLED, MOVE FROM ANCESTOR TO DESCENDANT AND FORM A "BLOOD CONTRACT" WITH THE ONE WHOSE BLOOD IS CLOSEST TO THE FIRST PERSON'S.

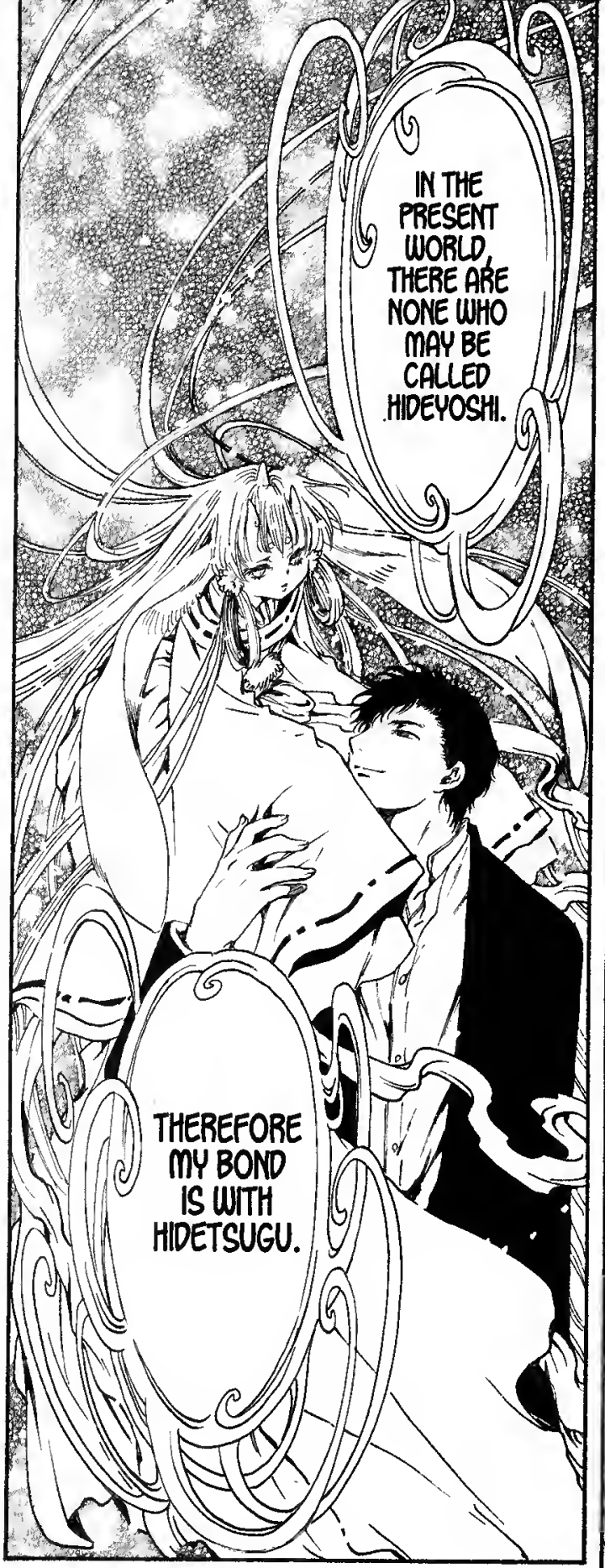
EVEN IF THERE'S NO BREAK IN THE BLOODLINE, IF THE BLOODLINE IS ***THINNED*** TOO MUCH, THEN THE EFFECT OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE *ONI* IS ALSO THINNED.

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WON THE MOST FAME IN THIS WORLD HAVE ALL HAD ***ODD MENTAL ABILITIES.***

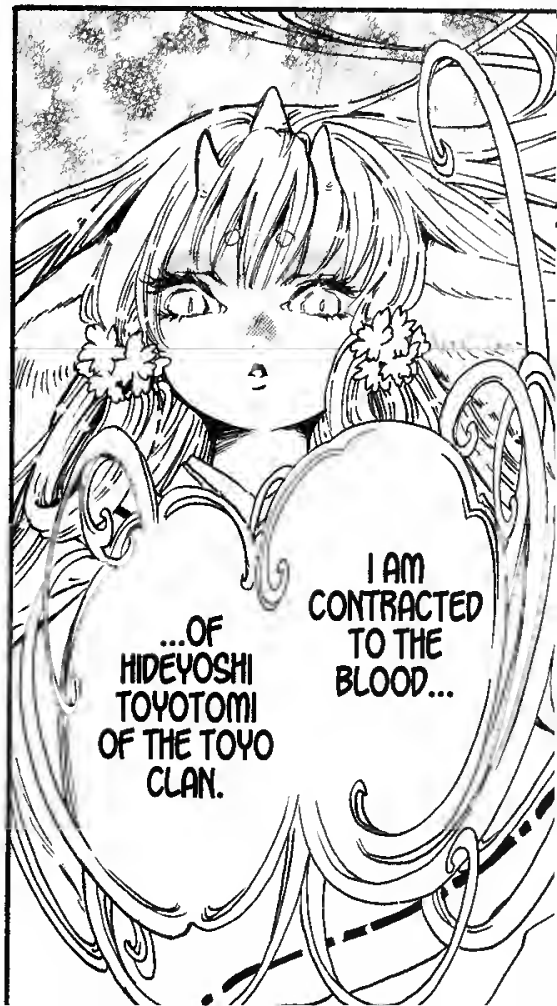
AND...

...AMONG THOSE ABILITIES, ONE ADVANTAGE SOUGHT BY MANY IS A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH A HUMANLIKE LIFE FORM... AN ***ONI.***

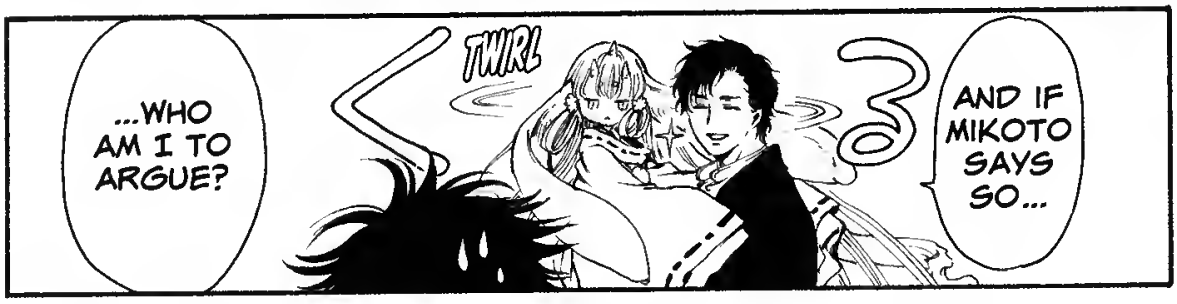

THAT WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE OLD GENERALS DURING JAPAN'S WARRING-STATES PERIOD.


IN THE PRESENT WORLD, THERE ARE NONE WHO MAY BE CALLED HIDEYOSHI.
THEREFORE MY BOND IS WITH HIDETSUGU.

THEN...
...MIKOTO-SAN...
YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS MIKOTO-SAMA!
GRR
MI--
MI-KOTO-SAMA!


I AM CONTRACTED TO THE BLOOD...
...OF HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI OF THE TOYO CLAN.

SO THAT MEANS ...
...YOU'RE HIDETSUGU REBORN INTO A NEW LIFE.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
THE NAME PRINTED IN MY FAMILY REGISTER IS NOT "HIDE-TSUGU"...
...BUT MIKOTO SAID--
YOU ARE HIDETSUGU!


AND IF MIKOTO SAYS SO...
TWIRL
...WHO AM I TO ARGUE?

THEN ...
TMP
TMP
TMP
...SOME-BODY WHO IS "HIDEYORI" DOESN'T--
DOES EXIST.
EH?

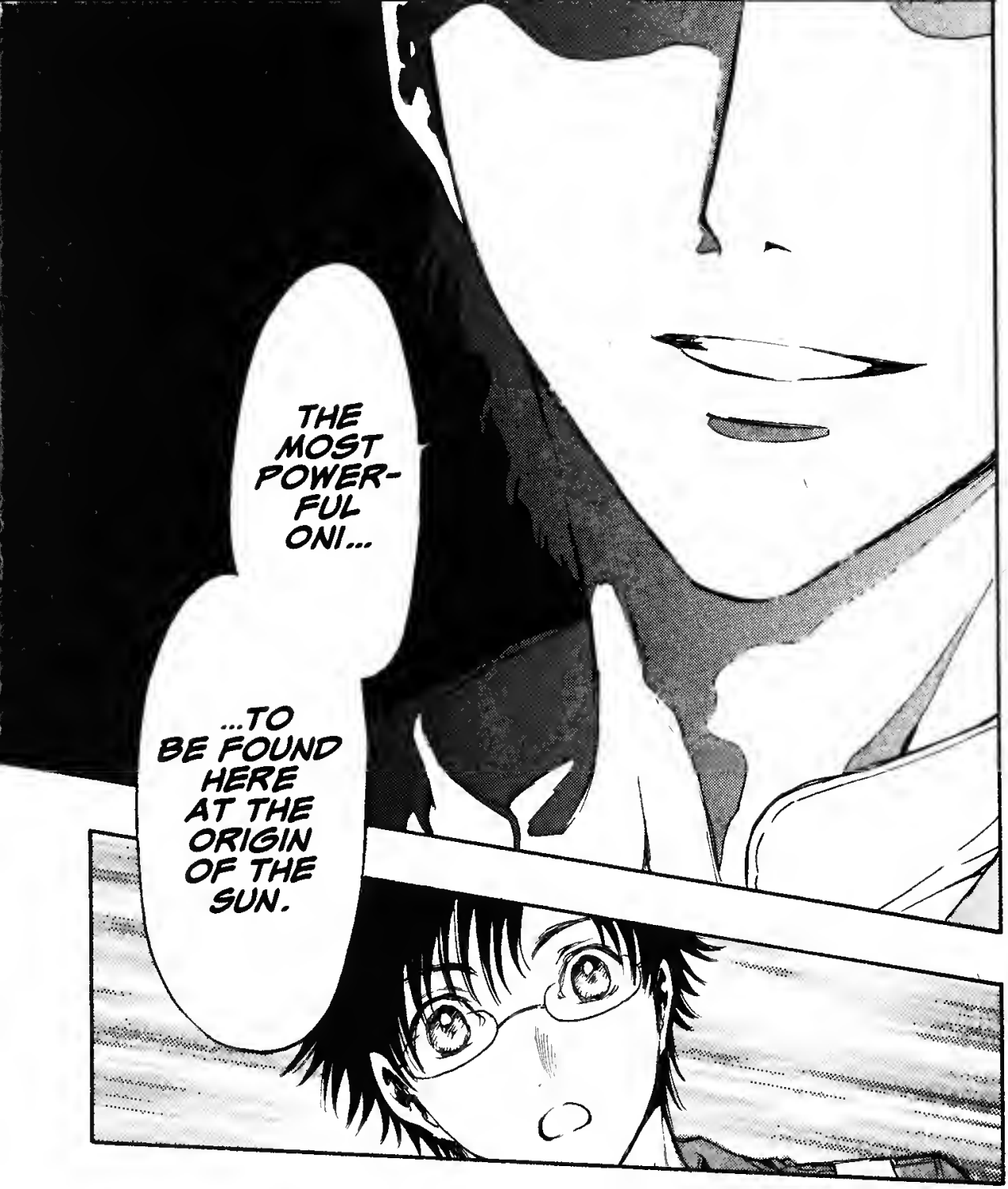
THE FACT THAT I AM WITH HIM MEANS THAT HIDETSUGU IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE ONE IN THE WORLD.
BUT IF WE'RE TALKING "CLOSEST BLOOD RELATION"... THEN WOULDN'T A DIRECT DESCENDANT...
HUUUH ??
EH...?
TH--
THEN HIDEYORI-SAN IS...
GRIN
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY SCARY ABOUT THIS!!
TMP TMP TMP

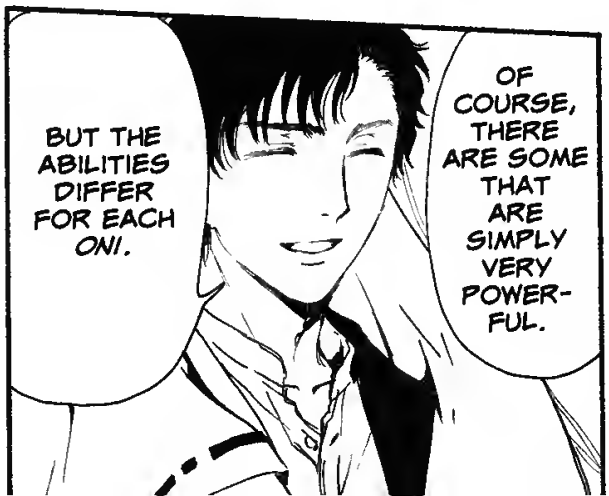
ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...
...DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF KAMI-SHICHIKEN?
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE BURNED TO THE GROUND ...
...AND WITH THE MATERIALS LEFT OVER FROM THE RECON-STRUCTION EFFORT...
...SEVEN TEAHOUSES WERE BUILT-- AND THAT'S HOW IT ALL STARTED.
DURING THE MOMOYAMA PERIOD, HIDEYOSHI USED TO GO TO A TEA CEREMONY AT KITANO, AND STOP AT THOSE SEVEN TEAHOUSES, WHERE HE RESTED, AND...
えっと えっと...
LET'S SEE... LET'S SEE...
...AND THEN... WHAT WAS IT?
YOU CAN DO IT!
AH! I REMEM-BER!
DANGO DUMPLING BALLS!
THEY SERVED SOY-GLAZED MITARASHI DANGO AT A TEA-HOUSE!
AND HIDEYOSHI LOVED THOSE DUMPLINGS!
SO HE GAVE PERMISSION TO OFFICIALLY OPEN UP MORE TEA-HOUSES THERE!
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE KAMI-SHICHIKEN ...
...IN ITS PRESENT FORM AS A HANA MACHI!

KLAP なっち
YOU GIVE HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT!
KLAP なっち
KLAP なっち
WELL DONE!
85 PERCENT RIGHT!
なっち KLAP KLAP
AND AT THE SAME TIME, ALONG WITH THE SEVEN HOUSES, WAS BUILT...
...THE URA-SHICHIKEN.
KLAP なっち
KLAP なっち
TO PROTECT THE TOYOTOMI CLAN...
...AND THE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT LAND THAT IS THE CAPITAL CITY...
...THE INOU SQUAD WAS CREATED.

JUST THREE, BUT...
...THEY'RE A SELECT FEW.
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
THE URA-SHICHIKEN...
AND RIGHT NOW...
POP
...THERE ARE THREE OF THEM.
I INHERITED THE URA-SHICHIKEN ALONG WITH MIKOTO.
I ACT AS PATRIARCH OF THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.
THEN...
...HIDETSUGU-SAN, YOUR JOB...
...IS TO LEAD THE URA-SHICHIKEN...?

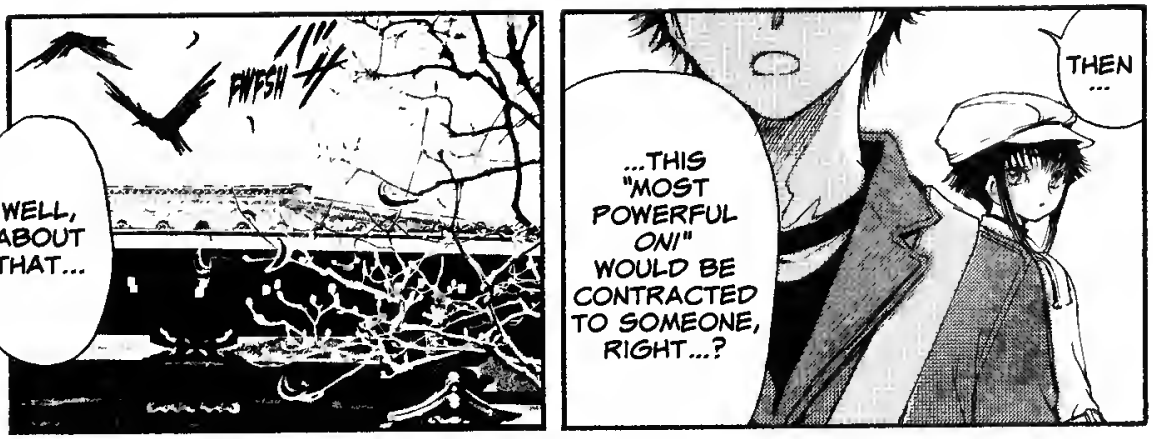
NO, I'M IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.
GRIN
EHH ?!
BUT...
...THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.
SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER THAT I NEED TO ACQUIRE.
...WHAT'S THAT?


THE MOST POWER-FUL ONI...
...TO BE FOUND HERE AT THE ORIGIN OF THE SUN.


BUT THE ABILITIES DIFFER FOR EACH ONI.
OF COURSE, THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE SIMPLY VERY POWER-FUL.

WHY, YES.
THERE ARE STRONG ONI AND WEAK ONI?

THEN WHAT ABOUT MIKOTO-SAMA...?
I SPIN KOTODAMA.
AS YOU WITNESSED, I MAY USE A WORD AS A SWORD...
...AND ATTACK WITH IT.
WELL, BATTLE WASN'T REALLY WHAT MIKOTO WAS BUILT FOR.
GRR
I AM STRONG IN BATTLE!
OF COURSE YOU ARE!
HOWEVER, PREMONITION IS PERHAPS MIKOTO'S GREATEST POWER.
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
THAT'S AMAZING!
AS YOU SAY.
HOLD IT.
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU SAID THAT ONI ARE INHERITED BY THE DESCENDANT WHOSE BLOOD IS MOST SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE ONE WITH THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT.
YES, YES.


FWFSH
WELL, ABOUT THAT...
...THIS "MOST POWERFUL ONI" WOULD BE CONTRACTED TO SOMEONE, RIGHT...?
THEN...

THROUGHOUT THE AGES, THAT ONE ONI NEVER MADE A CONTRACT.
BUT ONE DAY, A PERSON DID FORM A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH THAT STRONGEST ONI...
...THEN SEALED THE ONI TO HIMSELF AND WENT INTO AN ETERNAL SLUMBER.

...DAIROKUTEN-MAOH.
AND THE NAME OF THAT MOST POWERFUL ONI WAS...
HIS NAME WAS NOBUNAGA ODA.

NOBUNAGA?!
IS THAT TRUE?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY OF NOBUNAGA?

THAT'S RIGHT!
THE BODY HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND!
NOR DID THEY FIND NOBUNAGA'S...
...MOST POWERFUL ONI.

ぽち KLAP
CHIKAHITO-CHAN, YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERY-THING!
THAT MAKES EXPLAINING THINGS SO MUCH FASTER!
HE'S STILL NOTHING MORE THAN A CHILD!

LE--
LET'S SEE...
THEY ONLY FOUND HIS FAVORITE SWORD AT HONNOUJI TEMPLE.
THEY NEVER FOUND HIS BODY...

NATURALLY, THOSE WHO KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR IT.
BUT SO FAR...

...NOBODY'S FOUND IT.
BUT I KNOW A METHOD TO GET US THERE.
AND THAT METHOD IS?!
VVNNN

...AND THE MOMENT I MENTION IT...
...SOMEBODY COMES ALONG.
SOMEONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE NOBUNAGA'S ONI.
LONG TIME NO SEE...
...MASTER MITSUHIDE AKECHI.

YOU MEAN THE ANCIENT GENERAL AKECHI?!
AKECHI ?
?!
IS THAT...
...THE NEW CHILD LIVING AT URA-SHICHIKEN?
...
...
WELL ...
SO BE IT.
I SEE THAT TODAY YOUR RIGHT FLANK, TACHIBANA, AND LEFT FLANK, SAKURA, ARE NOT PRESENT.
THAT I SHALL TAKE AS A GOLDEN OPPOR-TUNITY.

GRIP
...OF YOUR ONI.
AND THUS ...
...I SHALL NOW TAKE POSSES-SION...
...SO THAT I MAY THEN HAVE HIGH AUDIENCE WITH HIS LORDSHIP NOBUNAGA.
FWTT
ENKA.

DMP
THEY HAVE THE SAME FACE?!
BWOOOH
Myoho!
Hanakago!

GWOOO
?!
OOOO

HANA-SAN!!
ゾワ
ゾワ

GATE 7 VOLUME 1 TRANSLATION NOTES

COMPILED BY WILLIAM FLANAGAN WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM CLAMP

Page 7, general notes on Kyoto: Kyoto was one of the few large Japanese population centers to escape the extremely destructive American firebombing of World War II that burned historical sites in nearly every other Japanese city close to Kyoto's size. The determination not to bomb Kyoto was a conscious decision by American civilian and military leadership in deference to Kyoto's many historical buildings and landmarks. Although some other historical sites in more rural locations—such as Ise or Izumo—were also spared, cities that were formerly rich in history (such as Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe—not to mention Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have all had to rebuild *replicas* of their ancient historic landmarks. Kyoto is the one large Japanese city where history is still very much in evidence.

Page 8, Kitano Tenmangu Shrine: At the turn of the tenth century, Michizane Sugawara was a man of noble birth and great scholarship. The emperor Uda favored him and gave him a powerful position, but he was slandered by his enemies and forced to die in exile in the year 903. A rash of earthquakes and damaging storms came soon after his death, believed to have been caused by his wrath. At the same time, there were an unusual number of deaths in the houses of the people who slandered him. The imperial throne proclaimed him Karai Tenjin ("god of fire and thunder"). The original shrine on the present site was called Tenman Tenjin, and Sugawara's spirit was enshrined as a god. Because of Sugawara's scholarship, the Tenmangu shrines (there are quite a few in Japan and even one in Hawaii) are a place where students go to pray for good grades. From CLAMP's notes in the original Japanese volume: "There's a fair on the Kitano Tenmangu Shrine grounds every month on the twenty-fifth, and it's always lively, with

many people arriving to worship. They call it *Kitano-no-Tenjin-san*! The shrine is also famous for its *ume* (plum) blossoms. Established during the middle of the Heian period in the first year of Emperor Murakami's reign (947), Tenmangu has a deep and abiding history. Address: Bakuro-cho, Kamikyo ward, Kyoto city in Kyoto-fu."

Page 19: *Kuchinawa* is a very old word for "snake" in Japanese. The kanji (Chinese characters) used in the original Japanese volume is the same as the common, present-day word for "snake" (*hebi*), but the ancient pronunciation gives the creatures an old-world feel.

Page 20: *Mizuchi* is also an ancient word. The kanji used is an alternate kanji for "dragon."

Page 22: *Myoho* is a Japanese word that means "arcane," "mystery," or "clever method." *Kamaitachi* literally translates as "weasel scratches," but in this scene it refers to cuts on the skin that one could get from sharp, strong, gale-force winds.

Page 29, *nabe yakiudon*: Normally, *yakiudon* is a dish made of noodles that are pan or griddle fried together with meats and vegetables. *Nabe yakiudon* is not fried, but rather boiled noodle soup (with meats and vegetables) in an earthenware pot. In many cases, each person eats from his or her own pot.

Page 32, "stringy noodles": When left in hot broth too long, noodles get droopy and stringy. This is called *nobiru* ("stretched") in Japanese, and to many Japanese people this means that the noodle dish is ruined.

Page 34, "the Kyoto dialect": Like most regions, Kyoto has a distinct dialect of its own. The dialect is considered a part of the western dialects (the *Kansai-ben*, which includes Osaka, Kobe, Nara, and others), but it has its own distinct flavor. The Kyoto dialect exudes a sense of old-style, cultured civility.

Page 35, "Tsuji Private School": Fans of *xxxHOLiC* may recognize Cross Private School as the school Kimihiro Watanuki commuted to during the events that took place between volumes 1 and 15 of that series. This private school uses the same kanji as Cross Private School.

Page 36: Kami-shichiken is the name of a district in Kyoto found just east of the Kitano Tenmangu shrine. Its name means "Seven Upper Houses," referring to seven high-class teahouses that employed geisha. It is still one of the *hana machi* ("flower streets") of Japan—one of the official districts for geisha. In this scene, Chikahito uses a simple kanji for "flower," one which refers to the few official geisha districts still found in Japan. The kanji that Tachibana and Sakura use for *hana machi* is a more complicated version. While both the simple kanji and the complicated one have similar meanings (both can mean "flower," "showy," "brilliant," and "gorgeous," among

other things), the different kanji spellings make them into two different concepts.

Page 37, Ura-shichiken: *Ura* is usually used to mean "back," as in "back door" or "back rooms"—something that is not seen from the front. *Ura* is also used to mean "ulterior," as in "ulterior motives." In other words, "hidden" or "secret." So Ura-shichiken could mean "Seven Back Houses" or "Seven Secret Houses."

Page 38: The word *inou* is made up of two kanji meaning "unusual" and "mind."

Page 47: Shinshu is the ancient name for an area that encompasses mostly Nagano Prefecture. Chikahito also mentions a "weird time" on this page. Japanese high schools are three-year institutions, and transfer students are rare. A student transferring schools toward the end of his second year of high school is almost unheard of. Even if a student must transfer, the school usually makes arrangements for that student to stay with his class until the end of the school year in March, but Chikahito was transferred in late January or February.

Page 54, from CLAMP's notes in the original Japanese volume: The idea of *nishin* soba noodles was suggested by Yosakichi Matsuno II. Even now, they preserve the legend of its unchanging, ever-delicious taste, a symbol of Kyoto itself.

Page 64: *Ema* are small wooden plaques sold by temples and shrines. Wishes are written on them, then they are hung from a designated area with the hopes that the gods will grant the wishes.

Page 65: The Japanese kanji for "living curse" means "living ghost." In the grudges and curses that Chikahito reads aloud, a "living curse" is something so strong, it can act as a haunting presence even though the person with the grudge is still alive. Sakura comments on "happiness" on this page, too. Buddhist philosophy is largely dismissive of material desires. Shinto is more rooted in the here and now, and shrines such as the Yasui Shrine—which our characters visit—are dedicated to making one's *present* life better.

Page 100, *mentaiko* sauce: *Mentaiko* is the roe (fish eggs) of the Alaska pollock. It has a spicy flavor and was originally a dish brought to Japan through Korea. One of its more popular uses is as a spicy addition to spaghetti.

Page 103, *maiko* and obi: *Maiko* are the geisha in training. Like most Japanese systems of *sempai* and *kōhai* ("mentor" and "protégé"), the established geisha give advice and the *maiko* do all the grunt work while learning their trade. One of these jobs is helping the geisha dress, and one of the final touches is putting on the wide, brilliantly colored cloth sashes called obi, which are tied in an elaborate bow in the back.

Page 105, Tachibana's lecture: In the original Japanese edition, Tachibana says he's

FUUKA: The name for Hana's MYOHO technique here is made up of kanji for "wind" and "flower."

going to a *kōgi*, which means a "lecture." But Chikahito mistakes the word for another meaning of *kōgi*, "complaint." Fortunately in English, "lecture" can mean both "lesson" and "scolding," so this pun was unusually translatable.

Page 116: Ramen can come in all sorts of flavors. *Kogashi* miso is a ramen dish featuring miso that has been charred to make a flavorful, deep-black broth. *Shōyu* is a ramen broth made with a soy-sauce base. *Tonkotsu* is a milky-white ramen broth made from pork marrow bones and fat that has been slow cooked. *Shio* is a light broth flavored with salt. From CLAMP's notes in the original Japanese volume, referring to the restaurant shown in panel 1 on this page: "With branches in places like Tokyo and Hakata in Fukuoka, Gogyo wishes to be a place where one can enjoy a new, fun ramen dining experience. In the back of the shop is a hidden, exclusive bar called Kura that's doing big business. It's an extremely popular restaurant that caters to the needs of every generation."

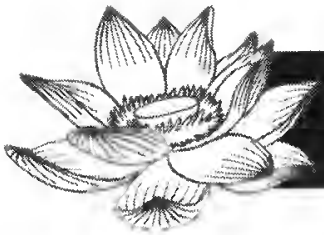
Page 117: In Japan, an *izakaya* is the equivalent of a good neighborhood bar and grill. Halfway between a bar and a restaurant, it's where people go to relax, eat, and drink.

Page 118, "proper greetings": When one moves into a new place, it is common to go to the landlord and other close or important neighbors with small gifts to pay your respects.

Page 133: *Kotodama* is made of two kanji—one that means "words" and a second meaning "soul." It might translate as "spirit of words." Following on the *kotodama* idea, the *oni*'s name, Mikoto, is made up of the kanji for "gods" and "word."

Page 135: Blythe is an eleven-inch fashion doll with a huge head and eyes that change color. It was originally distributed in 1972 by the now-defunct American toy brand Kenner, but it garnered no popularity and was canceled after only a year. However, in the year 2000, after a series of advertisements using the doll by the Parco department-store chain in Japan, Blythe suddenly became a Japanese sensation. Hasbro, who then held the rights, sold the license to the Japanese toy maker Takara, and Blythe was an instant hit.

Page 144, the noodle shop signs: *Kishimen* is a flat, wide noodle usually served with a soy sauce. *Kishimen* is actually a specialty of the Nagoya area. Ukiya is a chain of soba shops based in Kyoto. Soba is a thin buckwheat noodle that can be served either cold and dipped in a special sauce or hot in a bowl in its own broth like other noodle soups. *Soba-dokoro* is not the name of the restaurant. It is simply an outdoor sign indicating that one can eat soba noodles there. On this page, they are walking down Shinkyogoku, the second-oldest shopping street in Japan (established in 1872), formerly known for live theater and after-movie houses. Ever since the seventies, it has been a destination for Kyoto souvenirs.



KISHIMEN is a flat, wide noodle usually served with a soy sauce. KISHIMEN is actually a specialty of the Nagoya area.

Page 147, *fuuka*: The name for Hana's *myoho* technique here is made up of kanji for "wind" and "flower."

Page 149: The sign in panel 5 says *jizōden*. *Jizō* are small statues of the Buddha that may be set on roads or intersections, because it is Buddha that helps travelers. But another of its functions is to help the souls of children who have died. A *jizōden* is a building that houses *jizō* statues.

Page 150, Sanjō Kawara: This is an area on the banks of the Kamogawa River where it intersects Sanjō Road. It was used for executions during the Japanese middle ages.

Page 157, Momoyama: The Azuchi-Momoyama period is a thirty-year span at the very end of the Warring States period of Japanese history, beginning in 1573, when several victories allowed Nobunaga Oda to consolidate power over an almost-unified Japan. The period carried through the shogunate

The TACHIBANA tree was supposed to symbolize long life, and the SAKURA tree symbolized wisdom.

of Hideyoshi Toyotomi and ended when Ieyasu Tokunaga founded his shogunate and set the stage for Japan's 265-year-long Edo period.

Page 161, "the origin of the sun": That's what the kanji for "Nihon" (Japan) mean. *Ni* is "sun." *Hon* is "origin."

Page 164: Nobunaga Oda was a powerful warlord who started with a small plot of land in central Japan and quickly expanded his territory with ruthless precision. In 1568, he captured the capital of Kyoto, and from there he fought militant Buddhist sects and rival *daimyo* lords in an effort to unite Japan under his rule. His unification efforts fell slightly short in 1582, when one of his top generals, Mitsuhide Akechi, suddenly turned on him and attacked while he was lightly guarded in Honnouji Temple in Kyoto. Histories tell that Nobunaga committed seppuku (ritual suicide) rather than be captured by his traitorous general, but reportedly, his body was never found.

Page 165: The Dairokutenmaoh is the demon king (*maoh*) of the sixth and highest level of the heavens (*dairokuten*). In Japanese, this being's name is often shortened to Tenma.

Page 169: Mitsuhide Akechi was a general during the Warring States period. He was one of three generals that Nobunaga Oda most relied on, but there were rumors of frequent insults toward Mitsuhide by Nobunaga. Many rumors persist as to why Mitsuhide betrayed Nobunaga, but no reason has ever been confirmed. After Nobunaga's death, Mitsuhide went to the emperor and received the rank of shogun, but only held it thirteen days before he died in battle against fellow general Hideyoshi Toyotomi—who sought revenge for Nobunaga's death. Although most historians agree that Mitsuhide died in battle, there is a rumor that he survived, became a priest named Tenkai, and lived many more years.

Page 170, "your right flank, Tachibana, and your left flank, Sakura": During the Heian period there was a garden where the emperor held important ceremonies and received high-ranking guests. A *tachibana* tree (which produces mandarin oranges) was planted in that garden to the emperor's right and a *sakura* tree (producing cherry blossoms) was planted to his left. The *tachibana* tree was supposed to symbolize long life, and the *sakura* tree symbolized wisdom. He also had troops on the right and left who stood as imperial guards, and they were also referred to as the right *tachibana* and the left *sakura*. Even today, troops on one's flanks are called "right *tachibana*" and "left *sakura*."

Page 172: *Hanakago* is a Japanese word meaning "flower basket."

CLAMP オキモノ キモノ
Mokona's OKIMONO KIMONO

CLAMP artist Mokona loves the art of traditional Japanese kimono. In fact, she designs kimono and kimono accessories herself and shares her love in *Okimono Kimono*, a fun and lavishly illustrated book full of drawings and photographs, interviews (including an interview with Onuki Ami of the J-pop duo Puffy AmiYumi), and exclusive short manga stories from the CLAMP artists!

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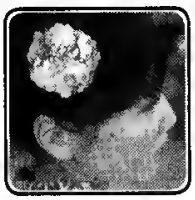

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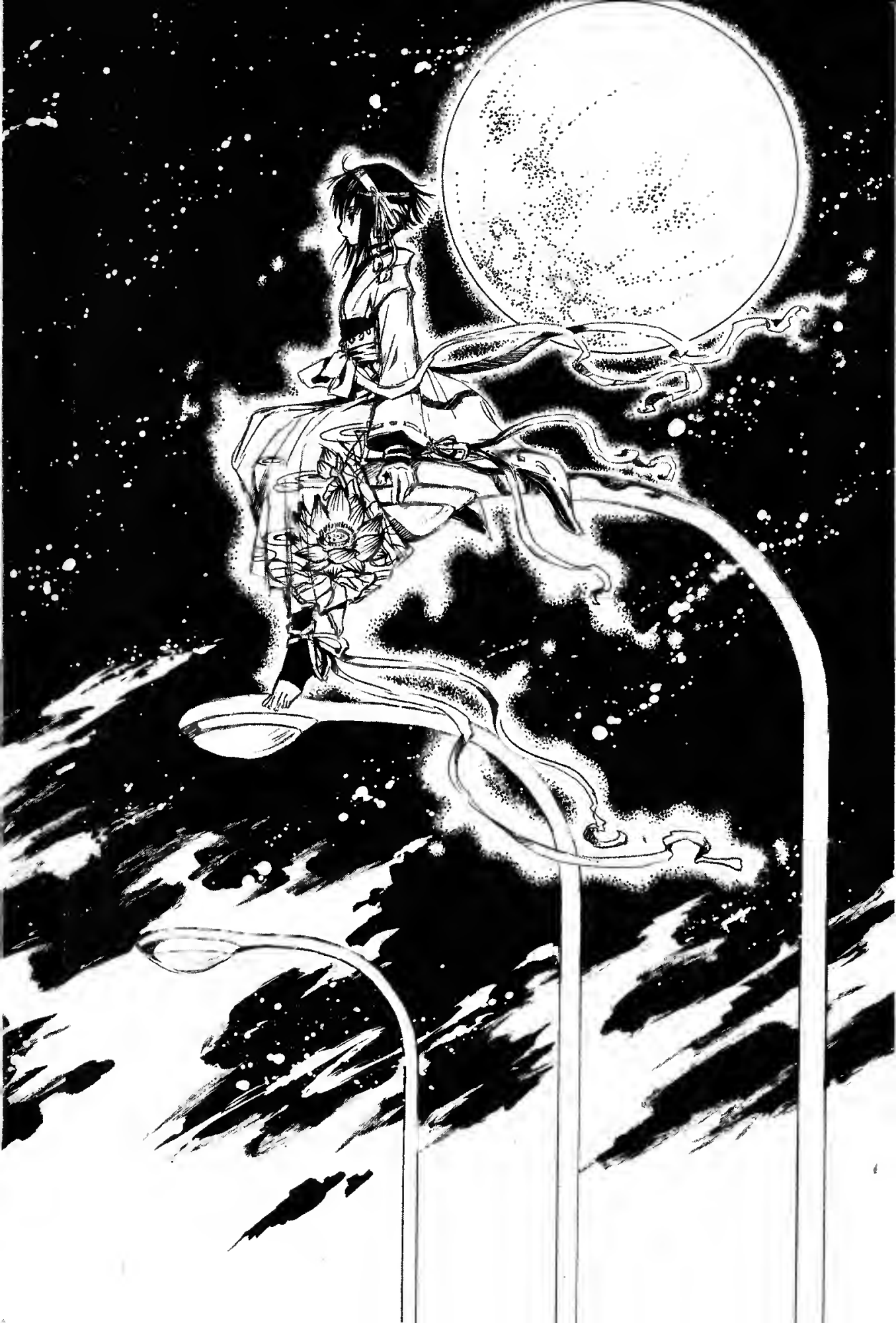

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